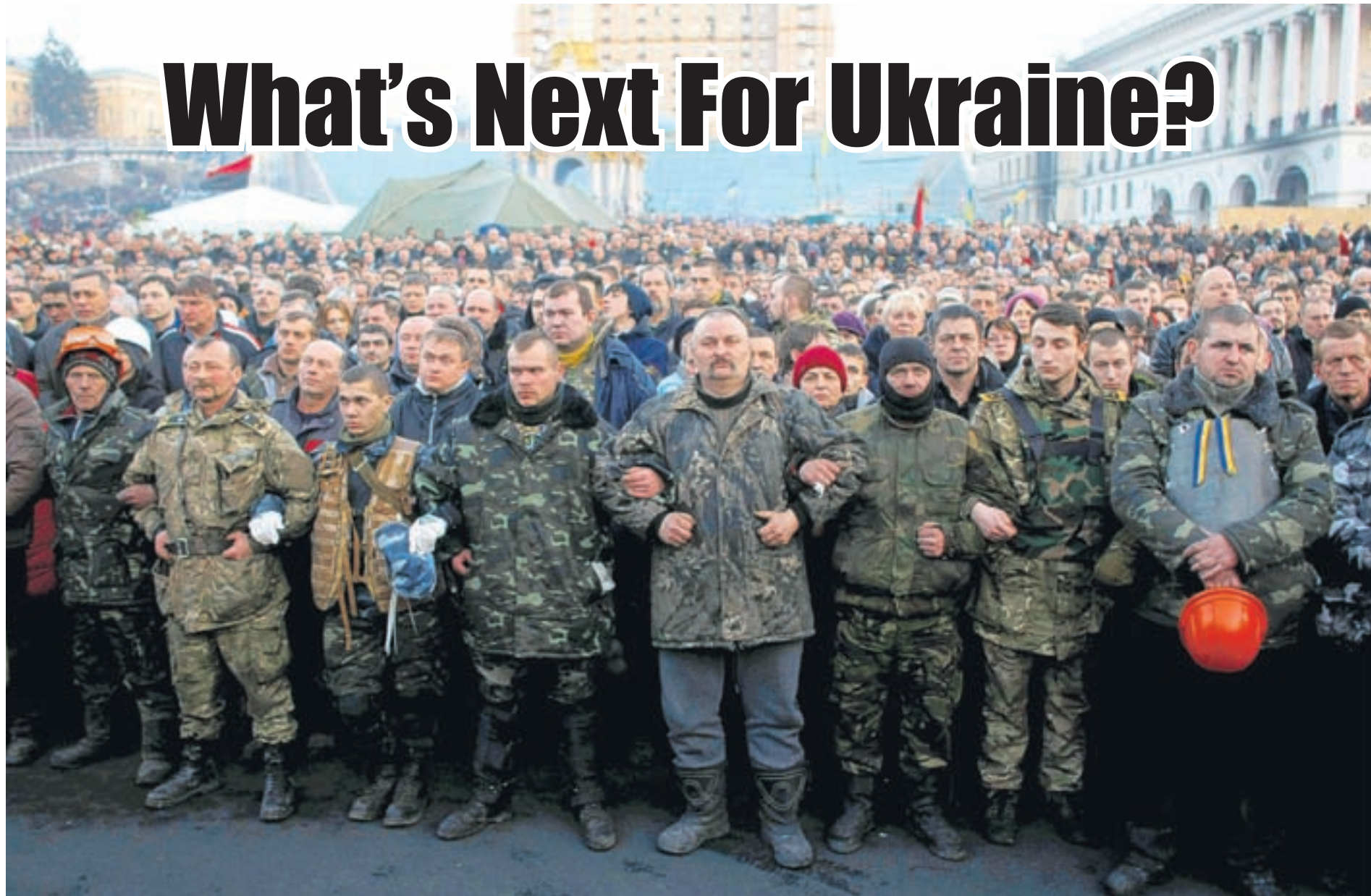


On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Saturday, February 22, 2014



People gather at Independence Square during a funeral procession for anti-government protesters killed in clashes with the police in Kiev, Ukraine, Friday, Feb. 21, 2014. In a day that could significantly shift Ukraine's political destiny, opposition leaders signed a deal Friday with the country's beleaguered president that calls for early elections, a new constitution and a new unity government.

(AP Photo/ Marko Drobnjakovic)

MARIA DANILOVA  
YURAS KARMANAU  
Associated Press  
KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — In

a fast-moving day that aimed to reshape Ukraine's political destiny, protest leaders and the belea-

guered president agreed Friday to form a new government and hold an early election. Parliament

slashed the powers of President Viktor Yanukovich and voted to free his rival, former Prime Minister Yulia

Tymoshenko, from prison.

Continued on page 2



## US RAILROADS CONFRONTING CRUDE SAFETY

Page 4



## STATES PUSH TO RAISE SMOKING AGE UP TO 21

Page 6



# Ukraine's president buckles but protesters split

**Continued from Front**

It was a crucial shift in Ukraine's months-long standoff between Yanukovich and protesters angry that he abandoned closer ties with Europe in favor of a bailout deal with longtime ruler Russia.

If it holds, the ambitious, European-mediated agreement could be a major breakthrough in a months-long crisis over Ukraine's identity.

The standoff worsened sharply this week and left scores dead and hundreds wounded in the worst violence the country has seen since it became independent in 1991.

But not all sides embraced the deal. A Russian mediator refused to sign it, and a senior Russian lawmaker criticized it as being crafted for the West.

And at the sprawling protest encampment in central Kiev, anger percolated among the thousands massed Friday night. Hardened Ukrainian protesters angry over police violence said they were determined to stand their ground until Yanukovich steps down.

Protesters booed opposition figures who took to a stage Friday evening to present the deal. One radical speaker threatened to go on an armed offensive if the opposition doesn't demand the president's resignation by Saturday morning. Others started

chanting "Death to the criminal!" referring to Yanukovich.

The agreement signed Friday calls for presidential elections scheduled for March 2015 to be held no later than December.

rejected Yanukovich's authority in many cities, while eastern Ukraine favors closer ties with Russia.

Hours after the deal was signed, Ukraine's parliament voted to restore the 2004 constitution that lim-

snipers who killed scores of protesters Thursday in Kiev, the capital that has been nearly paralyzed by the protests.

The next order of business was Tymoshenko. Legislators voted to decriminalize

city of Kharkiv.

The charismatic blond-braided heroine of the 2004 Orange Revolution — which also drove Yanukovich from the presidency — Tymoshenko served as prime minister and narrowly lost the 2010 presidential election to Yanukovich.

The next year, she was arrested and sentenced to seven years in prison on abuse of office charges that the West has denounced as a political vendetta.

With Yanukovich's supporters quitting his party one after another throughout the day Friday, legislators also approved an amnesty for protesters involved in violence.

The deal was a result of two days and all-night shuttle diplomacy by top diplomats from Germany, France and Poland, who talked with the president and the opposition.

White House press secretary Jay Carney said the deal is consistent with what Washington was advocating, and that the U.S. will closely monitor whether it is fulfilled, holding out the threat of more sanctions if it's not.

But neither side won all the points it sought, and some vague conditions could ignite strong disputes down the road.

The deal calls for protesters to hand over all their weapons, withdraw from buildings they have occupied and take down the camps they have erected around the country. It is far from clear that the thousands of protesters camped out in Kiev's Independence Square — the Maidan — will pack up and go home. "Resign! Resign! Resign!" they chanted.

"The Maidan will stand up until Yanukovich leaves," said protester Anatoly Shevchuk, 29.

"I hope that the direction of the country changes, but so far the goals of the Maidan have not been achieved," said Kira Rushnitskaya, a 45-year-old protester. □



**Ukrainian lawmakers celebrate after voting new laws in parliament in Kiev, Ukraine, Friday, Feb. 21, 2014. In a fast-moving day that could change Ukraine's political destiny, opposition leaders reached a deal Friday with the country's beleaguered president, and parliament changed the constitution and opened the way for the release of ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.**

(AP Photo/Andrew Kravchenko)

Many protesters say December is too late; they want Yanukovich out immediately.

The U.S., Russia and the 28-nation EU are deeply concerned about the future of Ukraine, a divided nation of 46 million. The country's western regions want very much to be closer to the EU and have

its presidential authority, clawing back some of the powers that Yanukovich had pushed through for himself after being elected in 2010.

Parliament then voted to fire the interior minister, Vitali Zakharchenko, who is widely despised and blamed for ordering police violence, including the

the count under which she was imprisoned, meaning that she is no longer guilty of a criminal offense.

"Free Yulia! Free Yulia!" legislators chanted.

However, Yanukovich must still sign that bill into law, and then Tymoshenko's lawyers would have to ask the court for her release from prison in the eastern

## Venezuela closes consulates in Dutch Caribbean

**The Associated Press**

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)** — Venezuela is closing its consulates in the Dutch Caribbean after what authorities said was an attack on a government office.

A Venezuelan man rammed his car through the front of the Venezuelan consulate in Aruba on Friday amid mounting unrest in his home country. There were no reported injuries.

As a preventative mea-

sure Foreign Minister Elias Java ordered the removal of all diplomatic staff from Aruba as well as Bonaire and Curacao until authorities could guarantee their safety. The three islands are semi-autonomous entities within the kingdom of The Netherlands.

Venezuelans are on edge as violent clashes between student protesters and government forces erupt across the nation. The violence has left at least 8 dead and more

than 100 wounded.

Venezuela's government also revoked the press credentials of journalists from CNN after President Nicolas Maduro blasted the television network's coverage of political protests. CNN says Friday that four of its journalists were notified by the Information Ministry that they are no longer allowed to report in the country. They include CNN en Espanol anchor Patricia Janiot

Maduro on Thursday

threatened to expel CNN from Venezuela if it doesn't "rectify" its coverage of unrest that he says is part of a campaign to topple his socialist government. Colombian news channel NTN24 was suspended from Venezuelan cable TV packages a week ago.

The government's near-complete control of domestic broadcasters has made CNN en Espanol a source of information for many Venezuelans trying to follow the unrest. □



# NYC mayor faces flap over speeding video

JONATHAN LEMIRE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New York Mayor Bill de Blasio

faced more questions Friday about why his official vehicles were videotaped breaking traffic laws only

two days after he rolled out a sweeping traffic safety plan.

De Blasio deferred to the

New York Police Department when met by reporters Friday morning on his way to the gym. The mayor's cars are typically driven by members of his security detail, made up of NYPD detectives.

"The NYPD provides security protocol for the drivers. Talk to them about that," he said.

Referring to his traffic safety plan, the mayor added: "We're very serious about 'Vision Zero.' ... We're going to keep moving forward with it."

After his weekly meeting with the mayor on Friday, Police Commissioner William Bratton downplayed the video, saying that the drivers have special training to make decisions based on security needs

and won't face any questioning. "I'm not overly concerned by what I saw," Bratton said. Asked if the mayor can tell his drivers to slow down, the commissioner responded, "He could raise it, but the security concerns would override any of his concerns."

De Blasio was expected to address the issue again at a news conference later Friday. The mayor was in the front passenger seat of the lead SUV of a two-vehicle caravan on Thursday that was captured on video speeding, running through a pair of stop signs and not signaling when changing lanes. The footage, which aired on WCBS-TV, was taken as de Blasio returned to City Hall after a news conference in Queens. □



New York Mayor Bill de Blasio delivers the budget address at City Hall in New York. De Blasio's official vehicles were spotted breaking several traffic laws on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014, just two days after he laid out a sweeping traffic safety plan that included harsh restrictions on reckless drivers.

(AP Photo/Craig Ruttle, Pool)

## Conservatives praise Russia's anti-gay laws

DAVID CRARY

AP National Writer

Two longtime opponents of the U.S. gay-rights movement on Friday announced formation of a coalition that will seek to persuade more countries around the world to follow Russia's example in passing laws that restrict gay rights.

The activists, Massachusetts-based evangelical lawyer Scott Lively and Peter LaBarbera of Americans for Truth About Homosexuality, praised two recently enacted Russian laws that have been assailed by gay-rights supporters worldwide. The protests have intensified amid Russia's hosting of the Winter Olympics in Sochi.

One law seeks to prevent gays and lesbians from adopting children, while the other — a ban on so-called gay "propaganda" accessible by minors — is seen as a deterrent to public expressions of gay-rights sentiment.

"By taking these steps in the face of intense criticism and hostility ... the Russians have demonstrated the high value that they place on their children and the natural family model of so-

ciety," the newly formed Coalition for Family Values said. "We believe that God will bless the Russian people for their faith and courage." Lively and LaBarbera said the new coalition will encourage allies abroad to lobby their own governments to follow Russia's example. "While the LGBT agenda has seemed like an unstoppable political juggernaut in North America and Europe, the vast majority of the people of the world do not accept the notion that sexual deviance should be normalized," their statement said. The formation of the coalition was assailed by the Human Rights Campaign, the largest U.S. lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization.

"Americans aren't buying the hate these anti-LGBT extremists are selling, so they've been forced to take their take their dangerous rhetoric abroad," said HRC president Chad Griffin. "These radicals are now traveling from country to country advocating for the persecution of LGBT people under the guise that they're saving children." □

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# American railroad officials confront crude safety

JOAN LOWY  
MATTHEW BROWN  
Associated Press

**BILLINGS, Montana (AP)** — Railroads that haul volatile crude shipments have reached an agreement with U.S. transportation officials to adopt wide-ranging, voluntary safety measures after a string of explosive and deadly accidents. The agreement between the U.S. Transportation Department and the Association of American Railroads was obtained Friday by The Associated Press.

It calls for railroads to slow down oil trains from 50 mph (80 kph) to 40 mph (64 kph) through major cities, inspect tracks more frequently and bolster emergency response planning along routes that carry trains hauling up to 3 million gallons (11.36 million liters) of crude each.

The new safety steps would begin going into effect in

late March and be fully in place by July 1.

After a boom in domestic drilling in recent years, oil trains now travel thousands of miles (kilometers) from oil producing areas, including the Northern Plains, to coastal refineries and shipping terminals along the Mississippi River and other major waterways.

The agreement does not resolve concerns over another fuel, ethanol, that has also seen a spate of accidents as production has increased. It also leaves out tens of thousands of flawed tank cars that carry crude and ethanol and are known to split open during derailments. Railroads and federal officials said they would address that issue separately.

By taking voluntary steps, railroads will be able to act far more quickly than if they waited for new safety rules to be drafted and

approved by the government, said Robert Chipkevich, former director of rail and hazardous materials accident investigations at the National Transportation Safety Board.

But he added that regulators will have little leverage to enforce the industry's commitments.

"It's a positive step," Chipkevich said. "But certainly there's nothing to say they

would have to continue following those practices. The only way you can enforce something like that would be for regulators to publish regulations and do periodic oversight." □



This photo shows a BNSF Railway train hauling crude oil near Wolf Point, Mont. Railroads that haul volatile crude shipments have reached an agreement with U.S. transportation officials to adopt wide-ranging voluntary safety measures after a string of explosive and deadly accidents.

(AP Photo/Matthew Brown)



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## New York:

## Man framed by detective to get \$6.4M without filing suit

FRANCES ROBLES

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**NEW YORK** - A man who was framed by a rogue detective and served 23 years in prison for a murder he did not commit will receive \$6.4 million from New York

city's Legal Department - which the lawyers involved in the negotiations described as a "groundbreaking" decision that acknowledged the overwhelming evidence the city faced. The comptroller's quick ac-

ceptance of liability in the high-profile conviction is also significant because the case is the first of what is expected to be a series of wrongful conviction claims by men who were sent to prison based on the flawed investigative work of the

detective, Louis Scarcella, who has been accused of inventing confessions, coercing witnesses and recycling informers.

"While no amount of money could ever compensate David for the 23 years that were taken away from him, this settlement allows him the stability to continue to put his life back together," Ranta's lawyer, Pierre Sussman, said. "We are now focusing our efforts on pursuing an unjust conviction claim with the state of New York." Ranta, who declined to talk Thursday, was convicted of the 1990 killing in Brooklyn of a Hasidic rabbi, Chaskel Werzberger, a Holocaust survivor who had stepped into his car at dawn just as a jewelry robbery was taking place across the street. He was shot in the head and his station wagon was used as a getaway car while the jeweler escaped unharmed.

The rabbi's death shook the Orthodox Jewish community in the Williamsburg section, which was a major voting bloc for the newly elected district attorney at the time, Charles J. Hynes. Hynes' office defended the conviction for decades,

fighting off appeals and rejecting evidence that pointed to another killer. But when one eyewitness came forward decades later to say that a detective had told him to pick the man with "the big

nose" out of a lineup - Ranta was the only person who fit that description - the district attorney's Conviction Integrity Unit conducted a yearlong investigation and discovered more serious problems. □



David Ranta, who was framed by a rogue NYPD detective and served 23 years in prison for a murder he did not commit, in Virginia Beach, Va., Feb. 20, 2014. Ranta will receive more than \$6 million from the City of New York in a settlement that came before a civil rights lawsuit was even filed, lawyers involved in the case said on Thursday.

(David B. Hollingsworth/The New York Times)

City in a settlement that came before a civil rights lawsuit was even filed, lawyers involved in the case said this week. A \$150 million claim filed last year by David Ranta was settled by the city comptroller's office without ever involving the

City in a settlement that came before a civil rights lawsuit was even filed, lawyers involved in the case said this week. A \$150 million claim filed last year by David Ranta was settled by the city comptroller's office without ever involving the

## Cellphones on planes? Don't ask the feds

JOAN LOWY

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — It looks like the U.S. government is more conflicted about cellphones on planes than most American travelers. Even as one federal agency considers allowing the calls, another now wants to make sure that doesn't happen.

Passengers — particularly those who fly often — oppose allowing calls in flight, polls show. In line with that sentiment, the Department of Transportation signaled in a 22-page notice posted online Friday that it wants to retain a ban on the calls. But the notice comes just two months after the Federal Communications Commission voted to pursue lifting the ban.

The Department of Trans-

portation regulates aviation consumer issues. The FCC has responsibility over whether the use of cellphones in flight would interfere with cellular networks on the ground.

Congress is also getting into the act. Lawmakers are pushing legislation to require transportation regulators to implement a ban on the calls.

In its notice on Friday, Transportation said it believes allowing passengers to make cellphone calls "may be harmful or injurious" to other passengers.

This is because "people tend to talk louder on cellphones than when they're having face-to-face conversations," the department said. "They are also likely to talk more and further increase the noise on a

flight, as passengers would not be simply talking to the persons sitting next to them but can call whomever they like."

Some planes already have seat-back phones in place, but they are rarely used, it said. The "concern is not about individual calls, but rather the cumulative impact of allowing in-flight calls in close quarters," the department said.

In an Associated Press-GfK poll three months ago, 48 percent of Americans opposed letting cellphones be used for voice calls while flying, while 19 percent were in favor and 30 percent were neutral. Among those who'd flown four or more times in the previous year, the rate of opposition soared to 78 percent. □

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# 2 US states move to hike smoking age to 21

KRISTEN WYATT  
MICHELLE L. PRICE  
Associated Press

**DENVER (AP)** — Two Western states with some of America's lowest smoking rates are considering cracking down even more by raising the tobacco age to 21.

Utah and Colorado lawmakers both voted favorably on proposals Thursday to treat tobacco like alcohol and take it away from 18- to 20-year-olds, a move inspired by new research on how many smokers start the habit as teenagers.

Both proposals face several more votes. But they're the furthest any states have gone to curb access to cigarettes by teens. The director of tobacco studies at University College London didn't know of any other countries considering a tobacco age threshold of 21, but he said raising the tobacco age from 16 to 18 in the United Kingdom proved to be "a public health winner."

Altria Group Inc., owner of the biggest U.S. cigarette company, Philip Morris USA, did not immediately pro-

vide comment.

A paper published last year in the journal *Annals of Internal Medicine* said that 9 out of 10 daily smokers in the U.S. have their first cigarette by 18 years of age, and that about 90 percent of cigarettes purchased for minors are obtained by people between 18 and 20 years old.

The Washington-based Campaign For Tobacco-Free Kids advocates the higher smoking age and argues that it could make a serious dent in tobacco deaths down the road.

Armando Peruga, program manager of the World Health Organization's Tobacco Free Initiative, said he supported the U.S. proposal, provided that it would be strictly enforced and that it was accompanied by other tobacco control measures, such as high taxes and smoke-free regulations.

"It needs to be part of a comprehensive policy to counter the tobacco industry's influence on young people," Peruga said.

Four states, including Utah, already require tobacco



A high school student, who preferred not to be identified, smokes a cigarette in a de facto smoking area just off the property of Lewis-Palmer High School, in Monument, Colo., Thursday Feb. 20, 2014. A proposal to raise the tobacco age to 21 in Colorado is up for its first review in the state Legislature. The bipartisan bill would make Colorado the first with a statewide 21-to-smoke law.

(AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

purchasers to be 19. The others are Alabama, Alaska and New Jersey.

The 21-for-tobacco bills are also pending in state legislatures in Hawaii, Massachusetts and New Jersey. Maryland lawmakers considered and rejected the idea this year. New York City last year raised the tobacco age to 21, as did Hawaii County, Hawaii.

Utah already has the nation's lowest smoking rate, about 12 percent in 2011 according to the Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention. Colorado isn't far behind, at about 18 percent in 2011, according to the CDC.

Despite the low rates, health advocates in both states testified that a higher tobacco age could depress the rates even further. When the legal age of smoking was raised from 16 to 18 in the U.K., there was a significant drop in the number of people who started smoking, University College London's Robert West said.

"The ages from 18 to 21 is a period of huge uptake and even if you're able to delay (teenagers) from starting smoking rather than preventing it altogether, there would be a significant health benefit. You're essentially allowing the rather scrambled adolescent brain to settle down and avoid smoking during that period before they turn 21, after which they may decide they absolutely do not want to smoke anyways," he said. □

## Detroit files plan to fix debt, leave bankruptcy

COREY WILLIAMS  
Associated Press

**DETROIT (AP)** — Detroit's emergency manager filed a plan Friday to restructure the city's \$18 billion debt by making cuts to pensions and creditors while offering a blueprint for emerging from the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history. The goal: A leaner, cleaner and safer Detroit.

The plan, which still needs approval from a bankruptcy judge and will likely be subject to numerous appeals and challenges in the months to come, aims to pour money into the city's aging infrastructure and clean up the city's blighted neighborhoods by demolishing decrepit homes.

On the other side, retirees would see cuts to benefits, though Wall Street creditors will see just a fraction of what they're owed.

"There is still much work in front of all of us to continue the recovery from a decades-long downward spiral," state-appointed manager Kevyn Orr said in a statement. "We must move swiftly to emerge from bankruptcy so that the financial distress harming the City can end."

"We maintain that the Plan provides the best path forward for all parties to resolve their respective issues and for Detroit to become once again a city in which people want to invest, live and work."

The plan still faces numerous obstacles. Most aspects are still being negotiated in mediation sessions with stakeholders. Court appeals are all but certain even after the final version is approved in bankruptcy court.

Orr has said the of the city's \$18 billion in debt, about \$12 billion is unsecured, meaning there aren't taxes or other revenue streams to pay it. Orr had hoped creditors would sign off on the plan before he submitted it to U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Steven Rhodes. But the clock was ticking because Rhodes had set a March 1 deadline. Nevertheless, with negotiations ongoing, changes are expected. □

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## US Financial Front:

# Transcripts show Fed grappling with 2008 crisis

MARTIN CRUTSINGER  
PAUL WISEMAN

AP Economics Writers

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Federal Reserve agonized throughout 2008 over how far to go to stop a financial catastrophe that threatened to pull the U.S. economy into a deep recession, transcripts of its policy meetings that year show.

"We're crossing certain lines. We're doing things we haven't done before," Chairman Ben Bernanke said as Fed officials met in an emergency session March 10 and OK'd never-before-taken steps to lend to teetering Wall Street firms, one of a series of unprecedented moves to calm financial markets and aid the economy. "On the other hand, this financial crisis is now in its eighth month, and the economic outlook has worsened quite significantly."

The crisis had been building for months. In an emergency conference call Jan. 21, Bernanke had rallied support for a deep cut in interest rates. He warned that market turmoil illustrated investors' concerns that "the United States is in for a deep and protracted recession." Bernanke apologized to his colleagues for convening the call on the Martin Luther King holiday. But he felt the urgency of the crisis required the Fed to act before its regularly scheduled meeting the next week. The Fed approved a cut of three-fourths of a percentage point in its benchmark for short-term rates.

On Friday, the Fed released hundreds of pages of transcripts covering its 14 meetings during 2008 — eight regularly scheduled meetings and six emergen-

cy sessions. The Fed releases full transcripts of each year's policy meetings after a five-year lag.

The 2008 transcripts cover the most tumultuous period of the crisis, including the collapse and rescue of investment bank Bear Stearns, the government takeover of mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the fateful decision to let investment bank Lehman Brothers collapse in the largest bankruptcy in U.S. history and the bailout of insurer American International Group.

For all its aggressive actions in 2008, the transcripts show the Fed struggling at times to grasp the speed and magnitude of the crisis. Bernanke and his top lieutenants often expressed surprise that they weren't succeeding in calming panicky investors.

As late as Sept. 16, a day after Lehman Brothers filed for bankruptcy, Bernanke declared, "I think that our policy is looking actually pretty good."

The Fed declined at that meeting to cut the benchmark short-term rate it controls. Just three weeks later, after the Fed had rescued AIG, Bernanke convened an emergency conference call. In it, he won approval for a half-point rate cut. The tone of the meetings shifted during the year as the crisis worsened. In January, Frederic Mishkin, a Fed governor, missed an emergency conference call because he was "on the slopes." "I think in Idaho somewhere," Bernanke said. The transcripts reveal the arguments Bernanke deployed to marshal support for the unorthodox policy actions — including support from Janet Yellen,



Narayana Kocherlakota, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, at the bank's building in Minneapolis, Jan. 14, 2014. When Federal Reserve officials last met at the end of January, they were surprised by the strength of the economy, cheered by the optimism of consumers and convinced they should continue to dismantle the Fed's economic stimulus campaign, according to an account the Fed released Feb. 19. (Tim Gruber/The New York Times)

who succeeded Bernanke this month as Fed chair. At the time, Yellen was head of the Fed's San Francisco regional bank.

At an Oct. 28-29 Fed meeting, Yellen noted the dire events that had occurred that fall. With a nod to Halloween, she said the Fed had received "witch's brew of news."

"The downward trajectory of economic data," Yellen went on, "has been hair-raising — with employment, consumer sentiment, spending and orders for capital goods, and home-building all contracting." Market conditions had "taken a ghastly turn for the worse," she said. "It is becoming abundantly clear that we are in the midst of a serious global meltdown." Yellen had downgraded her economic outlook and was predicting a recession, with four straight quarters of declining growth. The recession was later determined to have begun in December 2007. It lasted until June 2009. □

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## US census shows boom in farm sales

MARY CLARE JALONICK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

American agriculture has experienced a boom, with market values of crops, livestock and total agricultural products reaching record highs even as the amount of U.S. farmland declined, according to a new government survey.

Continuing a long-term trend, the number of U.S. farms dropped to 2.1 million in 2012, about a 4 percent drop from five years earlier. But some of the bigger farms got bigger.

The average farm grew from 418 acres (169 hectares) to 434 acres (176 hectares).

The state with the most farms: Texas, which saw the number of farms increase slightly over the five years. Still, it lost about 200,000 farmland acres over the same period.

The survey, taken every five years and released Thursday, shows some growth in nontraditional elements of agriculture. While the industry is still overwhelmingly white, there's been a rise in the number of minority-operated farms.

George Krivda, legislative program manager at the state Department of Agriculture, attributes the increase in part to rising demand for locally grown food.

"All of it is great, and it all speaks to the average consumer who's more in touch with where food comes," he said.

All told, U.S. farms sold nearly \$395 billion in products in 2012, a third more than five years earlier. That averaged to about \$187,000

per farm — or an increase of \$52,000 over 2007 totals. In Montana, Department of Agriculture Director Ron de Yong said crop prices have fallen since 2012. "It's part of the cycle, and we should cycle back up again," he said.

grown foods and a thriving export market. Many younger farmers work at smaller operations, where the good farm economy and a rising consumer interest in where food is grown have helped them.

He said he wants farm

talization of rural America a priority at USDA. As people have moved to suburbs and cities, many communities have increasing poverty and fewer young people to take over family farms. He has also argued that the dwindling population has



Photo shows Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack speaking in the White House briefing room in Washington. The number of U.S. farms is declining even as the value of their crops and livestock has increased over the past five years, a new government census of America's agriculture says. Also, farmers are getting older — the average age was 58.3 years. But Vilsack points to a bright spot: a small rise in the number of farmers between 25 and 34 years old.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

While most of farm country is getting older — the average farmer is 58.3 years old — more people under the age of 34 are trying their hand at farming.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack says the small boost in the number of younger farmers — around 2 percent — is partly due to increased interest and government support for locally

country to "be aggressive" about recruiting and retaining younger people, as a third of farmers were older than 65 in 2012.

"The reality is, over time those folks won't be able to continue farming, and the question for all of us is, if they don't, who will?" Vilsack said after the report was released.

Vilsack has made the revi-

led to less political clout — made evident by a recent three-year congressional struggle to enact a new farm bill. President Barack Obama signed the bill, which provides farm subsidies and food stamps, into law earlier this month.

"My question is not just who is going to farm, but who is going to defend them?" Vilsack said. □

## Murdoch is said to pay \$57 million for his NY condo

RAVI SOMAIYA

© 2014 New York Times

**NEW YORK** - Media mogul Rupert Murdoch has paid more than \$57 million for the top four floors of One Madison, a steel and glass luxury condominium tower in downtown Manhattan, according to people briefed on the sale.

Murdoch recently became a bachelor after he and his former wife, Wendi Deng, divorced last November, ending 14 years of marriage. As part of the divorce settlement, he signed over to Deng a triplex penthouse at 834 Fifth Ave., which he bought for \$44 million in 2005.

The divorce did not affect the ownership and control of Murdoch's multibillion-dollar media conglomerate, which was last year split into two companies: News Corp., a publishing company, and 21st Century Fox, which houses film and television assets.

Murdoch's new apartment will be on the 57th through 60th floors of One Madison, a building near Madison Square Park. The owner of the building, Related Cos., said in a statement announcing the sale - without naming Murdoch as the buyer - that the apartment encompassed more than 10,000 square feet. The residence "offers a soaring double-height great room with dramatic floor-to-ceiling windows and a wrap-around terrace, with uninterrupted cinematic views of Manhattan, river to river and from the World Trade Center to the uptown tip of Madison Avenue," Related said. □



## Moscow court convicts 8 for protest in 2012

STEVEN LEE MYERS

© 2014 New York Times

**MOSCOW** - A criminal court convicted eight people Friday for their part in a violent protest ahead of President Vladimir Putin's inauguration in 2012 after a prolonged trial that has become a symbol of the Kremlin's stifling of political dissent.

Even before the court's judge read the verdicts, the police detained dozens of people who had gathered outside the courthouse in central Moscow, mindful that the conviction could provoke new outrage and protests against Putin's rule. The verdicts came against the backdrop of the political upheaval in Ukraine, which Putin's critics here have watched with a mixture of surprise and envy. Those gathered outside - who included prominent anti-Putin figures like Alexei A. Navalny and two members of the punk protest movement Pussy Riot - held or hung banners calling for acquittals, and they chanted "shame" as the police seized people and ushered them to waiting buses.

By the time the judge, Natalya Nikishina, began reading the verdicts at least 50 had been detained, a number that continued to rise as she continued.

The eight convicted - seven men and one woman - were accused of assaulting police officers during a protest on May 6, 2012, the night before Putin's return to the presidency for a third term after four years as prime minister and de facto leader of the country.

Hundreds were arrested that night, but a small group of 29 faced the most serious charges of rioting and assault for throwing rocks or chunks of asphalt, though in many cases, their lawyers argued that the evidence of individual attacks on police remained murky. □

## Militants attack presidential palace in Somalia

MOHAMMED IBRAHIM

NICHOLAS KULISH

© 2014 New York Times

**MOGADISHU, Somalia** - Multiple explosions and a firefight erupted near the presidential palace here in the Somali capital on Friday, in a deadly militant

to provide more information later.

The United Nations' top envoy to the country said in a message on Twitter that the Somali president, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, had survived the attack on the palace, known as Villa So-

sion was heard, followed by an exchange of gunfire and then a series of other explosions around Villa Somalia. Ambulances were on the scene collecting the wounded.

Capt. Mohamed Hussein of the police told The As-

tack outside Villa #Somalia," said the African Union mission in Somalia, known as Amisom, in a Twitter message after the attack. "Senseless attack was directed on innocent civilians as Friday prayers were underway in Mosques."

Three suicide bombers tried to assassinate Mohamud in September 2012, as he was holding a news conference at a hotel with the visiting Kenyan foreign minister. Mohamud was not harmed in that incident either, but an African Union soldier was killed.

A spokesman for the Somali militant group the al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the attack.

"Our commandos have attacked the so-called presidential palace in order to kill or arrest those who are inside," the al-Shabab military spokesman Sheikh Abdul Aziz Abu Musab told AFP.

At least five people were killed and a dozen wounded last week when a car loaded with explosives blew up near the entrance to the international airport in Mogadishu, an attack believed to be aimed at a passing U.N. convoy. The al-Shabab also claimed responsibility for that attack.

"Al-Shabab unsuccessfully trying to divert ongoing plans by #Somali National Forces & #AMISOM to flush them out of their remaining bases," Amisom said in a subsequent Twitter message. □



**Somali soldiers secure the scene as the dead bodies of some of the attackers lie on the ground following a militant attack on the presidential palace in Mogadishu, Somalia Friday, Feb. 21, 2014. Nine al-Shabab militants wearing military fatigues and carrying guns and grenades died after attacking the presidential palace with two car bombs on Friday, in an assault the president called a "media spectacular" by a "dying animal." President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud was unharmed, but two government officials were killed, the interior ministry said.**

(AP Photo/Farah Abdi Warsameh)

attack on the heart of the government.

"Terrorists tried to attack the presidential palace and the security forces foiled the attack," Abdikarim Hussein Guled, the minister of the interior and national security, told state media. He called on the public to remain calm and promised

malia.

"President just called me to say he's unharmed," said Nicholas Kay, the United Nations' special representative for Somalia. "Attack on Villa #Somalia had failed. Sadly some lives lost. I condemn strongly this terrorism."

Witnesses said a loud explo-

sociated Press that the attack had begun with a car bomb, followed by militants attempting to shoot their way into the compound, where the president and the speaker of parliament reside and have their offices.

"Somali National Security Forces foiled cowardly at-

## Renzi forms Italy's latest government coalition

FRANCES D'EMILIO

Associated Press

**ROME (AP)** — Democratic Party leader Matteo Renzi formed Italy's new government on Friday and promised that his coalition will give the economically-stagnant country "hope." At 39, Renzi will become Italy's youngest premier when he, and his Cabinet, are sworn in Saturday. He will also be the third straight premier to come to office without being elected — the last premier who stood for election was scandal-tainted Silvio Berlusconi in

2008.

Renzi had been serving as Florence mayor when he engineered a power grab last week to effectively force fellow Democrat Enrico Letta to step down after 10 months at the helm of a fragile, often-squabbling coalition.

Renzi is depending on the same coalition partners. As well as his center-left Democratic Party, which will remain the biggest party, his government is propped up by two smaller groupings — supporters of former premier Mario Monti and for-

mer loyalists of center-right leader Berlusconi.

Renzi told reporters he's aiming to give a "strong message" to the international community that his government will enact electoral and economic reforms quickly.

He vowed to keep his government alive until the full parliamentary term expires in 2014.

"We aim tomorrow morning to immediately do the things that need to get done," Renzi said.

Renzi and Berlusconi, kept out of office by a tax fraud

conviction, recently cut a deal to work swiftly for parliamentary passage of electoral reforms aimed at finally giving Italy a clear winner at the ballot box. Should Renzi achieve the electoral reform in the next few weeks, both Democrats and Berlusconi's forces may push for early elections.

President Giorgio Napolitano, who tapped Renzi for the job, urged swift action. "We cannot afford the luxury of losing this occasion," Napolitano said. □



# South Korea gives aid to North amid family reunions

CHOE SANG-HUN

© 2014 New York Times

**SEOUL, South Korea** - South Korea on Friday approved a shipment of \$988,000 worth of medicine and powdered milk for North Korea and promised more humanitarian aid as the two Koreas continued emotional reunions of families separated by the Korean War six decades ago.

The Seoul government's approval of the aid shipment by two civic relief groups came a day after the two countries began the family reunions in an event widely seen as easing tensions on the divided peninsula. President Park Geun-hye has promised to increase humanitarian aid if the North improves ties with the South through "trust-building" projects like family reunions, which were last held more than three years ago.

The family meetings, held in the Diamond Mountain resort in south-eastern North Korea, highlighted the urgency for such reunions for Korea's "separated families," which were torn apart during the three-year war that ended in 1953 with the peninsula still divided. Several of the aging South Koreans



**A North Korean man hold hands and escort his relatives reunite their South Korean family members during the Separated Family Reunion Meeting at Diamond Mountain resort in North Korea, Friday, Feb. 21, 2014. Elderly North and South Koreans separated for six decades are tearfully reuniting, grateful to embrace children, brothers, sisters and spouses they had thought they might never see again.**  
(AP Photo/Yonhap, Lee Ji-eun)

selected for this week's reunions had died or become too weak to make the trip to the North Korean resort Thursday. One of them, Seo Jong-suk, 90, died Feb. 5, the day the rival Korean governments

agreed to the reunions. She knew of the deal when she was wheeled into a hospital for heart surgery that she did not survive.

On Friday, her North Korean daughter Kim Young-sil, 67, cried

over her mother's photo, which was brought by her South Korean sister, Kim Yong-ja, 68.

Twenty-five of the 82 who made the cross-border trip to Diamond Mountain on Thursday were in their 90s. Several were too ill to recognize the North Korean children they had wished to see before they died. Some were hard of hearing, forcing their North Korean children and siblings to communicate by writing. Millions of Korean families were separated during the war. The rival governments have banned exchanges of letters, telephone calls or emails. Occasional reunions they arranged were about the only chance for separated families to meet relatives.

In each of the 19 rounds of reunions since 2000, only a few hundreds elderly Koreans were selected. South Korea chose them by lottery. Of those elderly South Koreans on a waiting list, 3,800 die each year. About 71,000 South Koreans - 53 percent of them 80 or older - remain on the waiting list.

Many of them have described being selected in the government lottery as winning their life's last "jackpot." □

# 'Diary of Anne Frank' vandalized at Japanese libraries

MARTIN FACKLER

© 2014 New York Times

**TOKYO** - Japan promised to begin an investigation

on Friday into the mysterious mutilation of hundreds

of copies of "The Diary of Anne Frank" and other books related to her at public libraries across Tokyo. Local media reports said 31 municipal libraries had found 265 copies of the diary by Frank, the young Holocaust victim, and other books vandalized, usually with several pages torn or ripped out. The reports said some libraries had taken copies of the diary off their shelves to protect them. Officials said they did not know the motive for the vandalism, the first cases of which were discovered earlier this month. On Friday, the top government spokesman, Yoshihide Suga, the chief Cabinet secretary, expressed disappointment at the damage done to the books, saying that the police would investigate. "It is extremely regrettable and shameful," he told reporters.

He spoke a day after the Simon Wiesenthal Center, the Los Angeles-based Jewish human rights group, issued a statement express-

ing "shock and deep concern" over the vandalism.

"Only people imbued with bigotry and hatred would seek to destroy Anne's historic words of courage, hope and love in the face of impending doom," the statement said.

The diary, written by Frank as she and her family hid from the Nazis, was published after her death in a concentration camp at age 15. It has been widely read in Japan, as in many other countries, and is one of the best-known testimonies about the Holocaust.

While anti-Semitism is not common in Japan, magazine articles and books have occasionally appeared here that deny the Holocaust or claim that a Jewish conspiracy was behind various historical events. One of the most outlandish of these books, published in 1979, wrongly proclaimed that Enola Gay, the name of the United States B-29 bomber that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, meant "Kill the Emperor" in Yiddish. □



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## Filipino sisters freed after 8 months captive

JIM GOMEZ

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— Two Filipino sisters kidnapped by Muslim extremists eight months ago escaped their captors in the jungles of the southern Philippines and told authorities they were kept in isolation in a hut on a meager diet. Nadjoua and Linda Bansil were abducted by the brutal militant group Abu Sayyaf when they traveled to the restive Jolo island, the militant stronghold, for a video documentary about the lives and poor coffee farmers in the predominantly Muslim region. Philippine marines found them before nightfall Thursday in Buhanginan village in mountainous Patikul town, clad in black Muslim dresses that exposed only their eyes. They lost weight and one of the women was fondly cradling a cat, marine Capt. Ryan Lacuesta said. "They said that their captors often kept them in isolation in the mountain and the cat gave them company and pleasure," Lacuesta told The Associated Press by telephone from Jolo. He quoted one of women as saying they had shared their food with the cat and joking that the pet they named Juanita was fatter than them. It wasn't clear how they acquired the cat.

He said that the women lost a lot of weight but were otherwise fine. They were taken to a military trauma center in Jolo for medical check-up, given their first meal then flown to southern Zamboanga city, where they were briefly presented to journalists. Regional military commander Lt. Gen. Rustico Guerrero did not allow the women to be interviewed, saying they were exhausted. A brother of the women, Mohammed, told reporters he'll accompany his sisters back home to their mother in Manila. He said he refrained from asking them details about their captivity until they recovered. □

## Slain beauty queen mourned in Venezuela

BEN FOX

Associated Press

VALENCIA, Venezuela

(AP) — A university student beauty queen was mourned Friday in the provincial Venezuelan city where she was slain this week during a political protest, a victim of what government opponents say is indiscriminate violence used by President Nicolas Maduro and his supporters to stifle dissent across the country. Family members and friends of 22-year-old Genesis Carmona say the former Miss Tourism 2013 for the central Venezuelan state of Carabobo was shot down by members of the armed militias known as "colectivos" who opened fire on a demonstration in Valencia on Tuesday.

The government says the incident is under investigation but has suggested she may have been shot by an opposition protester, a suggestion that drew scorn at the private Mass and graveside memorial attended by several hundred people.

"She wanted to support her country and, well, look what it cost her for going out with a flag and a whistle. Killed by government mercenaries," said Jose Gil, an uncle of Carmona.



Relatives and friends carry the coffin of Genesis Carmona, in Valencia, Venezuela, Friday, Feb. 21, 2014. The university student and beauty queen was buried Friday in Valencia where she was slain during a political protest, a victim of what government opponents say is the kind of indiscriminate violence that has been used to stifle dissent across the country by supporters of President Nicolas Maduro.

(AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)

People at the service who were also at the rally said they saw a group of up to 50 men on motorcycles, armed with handguns fire directly into the crowd of about 3,000 demonstrators, setting off a panicked stampede through the street. "We were protesting peacefully and this was like a war," said Emilio Morillo, an 18-year-old uni-

versity student. Kendry Gill, 22-year-old law student also at the rally, said nine people were shot, including a young woman who remains hospitalized in critical condition with a perforated lung. "It was practically an ambush," Gill said. "We're peaceful. We don't have any weapons." Carmona, who was in her final year earning a market-

ing degree at a university in Valencia, was not ardently political, friends and family said.

Her uncle said she was drawn to the rally by the dismal economic conditions that the oil-rich country has experienced after 15 years of socialism-inspired policies and that her mother had gone with her to protect her. □

## Puerto Rico to probe more church abuse allegations

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Puerto Rico's justice secretary said Thursday that he has ordered an investigation into alleged sex abuse allegations involving another one of the island's Roman Catholic dioceses. The allegations originate from the Diocese of Mayaguez in Puerto Rico's western region, and the announcement comes just days after government prosecutors said they were investigating similar allegations against six priests in the Diocese of Arecibo who have been defrocked. "It's apparently a much greater problem than previously thought," Justice Secretary Cesar Miranda told reporters.

The Diocese of Mayaguez

said in a statement that it has handled four cases of alleged sex abuse.

The most recent case dates from 2013 and is currently pending before the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which handles such accusations. The priest accused in that case has been removed from the ministry, the diocese said.

In the other three cases, the diocese said that another one, dating to 2011, is also pending before the Vatican and the person involved has been removed from the ministry.

It said the Vatican is also reviewing a 2009 case that involves a person who is no longer with the ministry and asked to be returned to the

lay state, and that a 2006 case involves a person no longer active in the diocese.

A request to be returned to the lay state in the context of sex abuse is the ecclesial equivalent of a no contest plea in which a priest admits to wrongdoing and asks to be relieved of his obligations.

It is similar to being defrocked in that the outcome is the same, but in those cases, the church grants laicization because a priest asks for it in the context of being accused of a canonical crime rather than wait for the church to issue a punitive defrocking. The diocese noted that those who made the complaints are adults and have

asked that their cases not be reported to police. Diocese officials said in a statement that they would not issue further comment because the investigations are ongoing.

"This diocese is committed to a zero tolerance policy," it said in a statement. "Any complaint is investigated immediately."

Further details about the cases were not immediately available and calls to the Diocese of Mayaguez went unanswered Thursday afternoon.

Officials with Puerto Rico's Justice Department recently accused the Diocese of Arecibo of withholding additional information for a separate criminal investigation. □



# Mexico to trump Japan as No. 2 car exporter to US

**ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON**

**Associated Press**

**CELAYA, Mexico (AP)** —

Mexico is on track to overtake Japan and Canada and become the United States' No. 1 source of imported cars by the end of next year, part of a national manufacturing boom that has turned the auto industry into a bigger source of dollars than money sent home by migrants.

The multibillion-dollar wave of new factories is raising hopes that the North American Free Trade Agreement is fulfilling its promise of fueling growth and diminishing poverty south of the border, and it has turned a handful of central Mexican cities into bright spots of prosperity.

But critics note that a major attraction for car manufacturers are Mexico's low and stagnant wages, which have helped kept the poverty rate between 40 and 50 percent since the passage of NAFTA two decades ago.

An \$800 million Honda plant opening Friday in the central state of Guanajuato will produce about 200,000 Fit hatchbacks a year, helping push total Mexican car exports to the U.S. to 1.7 million in 2014, roughly 200,000 more than Japan, consulting firm IHS Automotive says. And, with another big plant starting next week, Mexico is expected to surpass Canada for the top spot by the end of 2015.

"It's a safe bet," said Edu-

ardo Solis, president of the Mexican Automotive Industry Association. "Mexico is now one of the major global players in car manufacturing."

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto plans to attend the opening of the plant in the town of Celaya along with the economy minister and top Honda executives.

ports surged from \$40 billion to \$70.6 billion over that span.

Manufacturing in Mexico is now cheaper than in many places in China, though the vast majority of the cars and trucks made in North America are still produced in the U.S. for domestic consumption and export to other countries.

to be resolved in the auto industry to make it more competitive again. Moving parts, not all of the production, to Mexico was a good way to deal with that," said Christopher Wilson, an expert in U.S.-Mexico economic relations for the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Mexico's government and

cent years, though experts attribute that mostly to tougher enforcement and a slower U.S. economy. Despite successes such as the car-making boom, Mexico still isn't creating nearly enough formal jobs for the hundreds of thousands of people entering the workforce each year.

The Mexican government announced Friday that the economy grew a meager 1.1 percent in 2013, its worst performance since 2009. Mexico has roughly 580,000 auto workers, whose numbers have risen by 100,000 since 2008. They are paid about \$16 a day, more than \$4 less than what the average U.S. autoworker is paid every hour. Many car factories in Mexico operate with pro-company unions and some workers have fought without success to form independent unions that could bargain for higher pay and better pensions.

"It's one of the most modern industries that is generating the most money for the country," said Huberto Juarez, an auto industry expert at the Autonomous University of Puebla.

Solis, the president of the auto industry association, acknowledges wages are low compared to the U.S. and Canada, but says the boom is creating a new generation of young engineers and funding automotive research in Mexico. A handful of Mexican entrepreneurs have launched boutique car companies in recent years, although their production remains insignificant compared to that of foreign manufacturers in Mexico.

That's short-sighted. It is a component of a larger equation that has to do with the expertise we are developing," Solis said. Much of the new production is by Japanese companies drawn by the ability to move parts into Mexico without tariffs. Local governments have been competing for new plants by offering tax exemptions, employee training and improved highways connecting the plants to the U.S. border and Mexican ports.



**Volkswagen Jettas produced in Mexico for export are parked at the port terminal in the Gulf city of Veracruz, Mexico. Mexico is on track to replace Japan as the second-largest exporter of cars to the United States by the end of 2014, and is expected to surpass Canada for the top spot by the end of 2015.**

(AP Photo/Felix Marquez)

When NAFTA was signed two decades ago, Mexico produced 6 percent of the cars built in North America. It now provides 19 percent. Total Mexican car production has risen 39 percent from 2007, to nearly 3 million cars a year. The total value of Mexico's car ex-

And many of the vehicles built in Mexico are assembled with parts that are produced in the United States and Canada and cross the border without tariffs under NAFTA.

"There was a realization that there were some structural issues that had

the car industry say the automotive industry has become the primary source of foreign currency for Mexico, surpassing oil exports and remittances from immigrants in the United States.

Migration to the U.S. has slowed dramatically in re-

## Haiti court urges further probes on Duvalier trial

**TRENTON DANIEL**

**Associated Press**

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti**

**(AP)** — A Haitian appellate court called for further investigation into human rights abuses allegedly committed during the 15-year rule of former dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier, creating an opportunity for the prosecution to submit more evidence and perhaps even launch a trial against him.

The three-judge panel said Thursday that an earlier court ruling was incom-

plete, and called for one of the judges to interview witnesses including senior officials of the former Duvalier government, as well as victims who haven't been able to testify.

Overturning the lower court ruling, the panel also said the man known as "Baby Doc" could be charged with rights abuses because Haiti is bound by international law that says there's no statute of limitations for crimes against humanity.

"This is a good decision," Mario Joseph, one of the

attorneys for the victims, told reporters.

"Everyone knows what happened from 1971 to 1986," the years Duvalier was in power.

Defense attorney Frizto Canton said he would appeal the decision, saying he believes the judges were swayed by international rights groups.

Duvalier, now 62 and frail, made a surprise return to Haiti in 2011 after 25 years in exile in France. Human rights and embezzlement charges were filed against

him, but he was never jailed.

Instead, he was placed under a kind of house arrest and allowed to freely roam the country. The former leader has been attending public ceremonies and private parties.

An investigative judge in 2012 threw out the human rights charges against Duvalier, saying the statute of limitations had expired, and recommended that he face charges only for the alleged financial crimes. □





## Special visitors honored at the Divi Phoenix Resort

**PALM BEACH** - Recently, the following special guests were honored by the Aruba Tourism Authority for their years of loyalty to the island of Aruba.

Honored as Distinguished Visitors: Olimpa Amoruso McGuire, Caroline Amoruso, Peter Amoruso, Michael Amoruso McGuire, Luci Mehr, Lashana Reale, Andrew Reale, and also Andrew & Susan Reale. Honored as Ambassadors of Goodwill: Dorothy and Bob Amoruso, Laura Amoruso McGuire, William and Angela Mc Dermott, and Olimpia Amoruso Karounos.

The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for between 10-and-20 years or 20+ years consecutive. Mr. Ricardo Croes representing Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony at the Divi Phoenix Resort.

Mrs. Amoruso commented

that she will never change her vacation island for any other island.

Top reasons for returning provided by the honorees were they consider Aruba

to be the "Happy Island", the great weather, Friendly Aruban Hospitality, white sand beaches and the local food.

In the pictures, Mr. Croes

& Mr. Boekhoudt from ATA together with the happy honorees and different representatives from the Divi Phoenix Resort. □







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## Loyal Visitors Honored at the Paradise Beach Villas



**EAGLE BEACH** - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Paradise Beach

Villas as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of

appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 and 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Frederick and Jean Cross of Sa-




Bertha Mausser of Wickliffe, Ohio, Robert Russell of Longboat Key, Florida, and Raymond and Rosemarie Kosten-Metz from Toms River, New Jersey. All the honorees are loyal members of the Paradise Beach Villas and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, Casinos and being on Aruba and staying at the Paradise is like being home for them. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Milca Erasmus representing the Paradise Beach Villas. □

lem, New Hampshire, David Jerauld of Chatham, Massachusetts, Joseph and

# Beauty On The Beach

## Lauren Smith

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## A Week of Love at Amazonia Churrascaria and Sushi Salsa



**PALM BEACH** - The twin Brazilian-style eateries, a happy marriage between a steakhouse and a sushi bar, celebrated the week of love by urging patrons to take their Dushi, their sweethearts, for meat and sushi. Joanne Ashinoff and Julie Marchesella, who own the Queen of Hearts, a plus size fashion boutique on Long Island, took that advice while celebrating Valentine's week in Aruba. Both have been to the island many times, but this was their first trip together, staying at Divi Phoenix Aruba Resort.

Local resident Debbie Kunder and adorable visiting family members, especially niece Peyton Naples, Debbie's sister Cheryl and her handsome husband Brandon Naples, from Pennsylvania, enjoyed their family reunion during the week of love over sumptuous dinner together. Amazonia Churrascaria serves authentic gaucho fare, with a variety of grilled meats, carved table side. Sushi Salsa showcases the art of sushi, made by the island's most experienced sushi chef, with the finest ingredients available. □



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## Good news for Ukraine; More bad news for U.S. hockey

**DAVID PACE**  
 Associated Press

**SOCHI, Russia (AP)** — Four Ukrainian women gave their politically torn country some good news at the Sochi Games on Friday, and Canada delivered more bad news to the United States — yet another Olympic hockey defeat. As government and opposition leaders worked to end the months-long Ukrainian crisis that erupted in deadly violence this week, the Ukraine women's 4x6-kilometer biathlon relay team won the nation's first gold medal in two decades. The four women celebrated with a Ukrainian flag as lawmakers back home paused to mark the occasion. "Great proof of how sport can unite the nation," Sergei Bubka, the pole vault great and leader of the Ukraine Olympic Committee, wrote on Twitter.

Continued on Page 21



## James has broken nose and might miss Bulls game

**MIAMI (AP)** — LeBron James has a broken nose, and his availability for the Miami Heat on Sunday against Chicago will be a game-time decision. The Heat announced the diagnosis after James' injury was evaluated Friday. He missed the closing minutes of Thursday's game at Oklahoma City when he was struck inadvertently by defender Serge Ibaka on a drive to the basket. James finished with a dunk but then crumpled to the floor, blood gushing from his nose. He left the court with a towel over his face. He passed a concussion test, but didn't talk to reporters after the Heat's victory, instead sitting in front of his locker with a towel draped over his head. The team was off Friday.

See NBA capsules on Page 20



Miami Heat forward LeBron James holds a towel over his face as he walks off the court with a bloody nose during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Oklahoma City Thunder in Oklahoma City, Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014.

Associated Press

## Hamlin, Kenseth win qualifying races for Daytona 500



Matt Kenseth (20) races to the finish ahead of Kevin Harvick (4) to win the first of two NASCAR Sprint Cup series qualifying auto races at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla., Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014.

Continued on Page 22



# Serena upset by Cornet in Dubai semifinals

SANDRA HARWITT

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) —

The hope of an all-Williams final at the Dubai Championships ended on the racket of Frenchwoman Alize Cornet on Friday.

The 26th-ranked Cornet scored her first career victory over a No. 1 player when she upset Serena Williams 6-4, 6-4.

"I'm so excited," Cornet said, smiling broadly. "I didn't expect that definitely, and I'm really, really happy and proud of myself."

"She's one — or maybe — 'the' biggest champion of history, and, wow, just thinking that I beat her today." Earlier in the day, Venus Williams earned her spot in the final when she dominated eighth-seeded Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark 6-3, 6-2.

Serena Williams, playing in her first tournament since

losing in the Australian Open fourth round, offered no excuses. She said her back, which had been hurting in recent weeks, was fine. "I'm a wee bit embarrassed," said Williams, who started laughing. "She played really well. I just didn't play today."

"I tried, though. I don't think I have made that many errors in a match in I think at least three years, maybe four years."

Williams gave herself a failing grade for being unable to find a winning formula for the match: "I think out of a 10, I was at like a negative 283."

Cornet won the first set when Williams flinched while serving in the ninth game.

Cornet, who reached the Paris Indoors semifinal earlier this month, took advantage of her one-set point in the 10th game with a winning backhand down the line.

The Frenchwoman then jumped out to a quick 2-0 lead in the second set, but Williams rebounded.

Cornet broke Williams' serve again in the seventh game with a winning forehand down the line. Williams fought off four match points on her own serve in the ninth game, but Cornet served out the match at love.

"I know her, and I know she feels the moment when she has to put more into making the opponent feel that she's still here," Cornet said. "But I did it, too. I showed her that I would be there till the end."

"So when she was screaming louder, I was screaming louder. She was hitting harder, I was hitting harder."

In contrast to her sister, the 44th-ranked Venus Williams has been playing top level tennis all week long in Dubai.

A former two-time Dubai



Alize Cornet of France celebrates after she beats Serena Williams of the U.S. during a semi final match of Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Friday, Feb. 21, 2014.

Associated Press

champion in 2009 and 2010, Williams currently holds a 14-match winning streak at the tournament. She didn't play in this event between 2011 and 2013.

"I feel like I've just gotten so much better since my first round to now, just feeling comfortable on the court, feeling comfortable when I'm behind, feeling com-

fortable when I'm in the lead," Williams said.

Williams, who lost the Auckland final to Ana Ivanovic last month, lost an early 2-0 lead in the first set. But from 2-2, Williams always held the lead in the match.

Williams failed to serve out the first set at 5-2, surrendering that eighth game at love. □

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# James leads Heat past Thunder

The Associated Press

**OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)** — LeBron James scored 33 points before leaving in the fourth quarter with a bloody nose and the Miami Heat beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 103-81 on Thursday. NBA Capsules James went down with 5:50 remaining after he was struck by Oklahoma City's Serge Ibaka on a drive to the basket. James finished the dunk, but was bloodied and left the court with a towel over his face. Dwyane Wade had 24 points and 10 assists and Chris Bosh added 24 points for Miami, which won its fourth straight and avenged an earlier loss to Oklahoma City. Kevin Durant scored 28 points for Oklahoma City. Russell Westbrook, who had missed the previous 27 games after having a surgery on his right knee, started and scored 16 points.



Miami Heat forward LeBron James (6) dunks in front of Oklahoma City Thunder forward Serge Ibaka (9) during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014. James fell to the floor with a bloody nose. Miami won 103-81.

Associated Press

Oklahoma City lost at home for the first time since Jan. 5.

NUGGETS 101, BUCKS 90

**MILWAUKEE (AP)** — Kenneth Faried continued his recent hot streak, scoring 26 points to carry Denver past Milwaukee.

Wilson Chandler scored 15 while J.J. Hickson added 14 points and 10 rebounds in a matchup of two teams left short-handed by deals they made before Thursday afternoon's trade deadline.

Faried, the No. 22 overall pick in the 2011 draft, has been impressive this February. Coming off a 21-point, 10-rebound performance against Phoenix, the forward also scored a career-high 28 against the Los Angeles Clippers earlier this month.

Caron Butler scored 17 for the Bucks, who have not won two straight games all season. Ersan Ilyasova had 14 points and 11 rebounds.

WARRIORS 102, Rockets 99, OT

**OAKLAND, California (AP)** — Stephen Curry made a tying layup with 3.2 seconds left in regulation and finished with 25 points, and the Golden State Warriors outlasted the Rockets 102-99 in overtime to halt Houston's eight-game winning streak.

Just after James Harden hit a go-ahead jumper, Curry came back with a left-handed layup over Dwight Howard to send the game to the extra session. The Warriors got a big boost in overtime when Jermaine O'Neal, who was filling in for injured center Andrew Bogut, blocked Chandler Parsons' baseline dunk attempt at the rim.

Curry followed with two free throws to give Golden State a 98-95 lead with 15.9 seconds left. The teams traded free throws as the Rockets ran out of time. □

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# Golden dream gone, U.S. plays Finland for bronze

LARRY LAGE

AP Hockey Writer

**SOCHI, Russia (AP)** — The United States hockey team came to Russia for Olympic gold.

It now hopes to return home from the Sochi Games with bronze.

Canada beat the Americans 1-0, relegating them to the third-place game on Saturday against Finland.

It will be a tough mental and physical test for the guys in red, white and blue. The Finns will be more rested and perhaps more ready to bounce back from their 2-1 loss to Sweden.

The Swedes beat Finland in a game that started five hours before the puck dropped for the Canadians and Americans.

"It's a quick turnaround, that's for sure," U.S. defenseman Brooks Orpik said. "It's not the goal we set out for, but we'll see what kind of character we have."

Finland won bronze four years ago at the Vancou-

ver Games, silver in 2006 and bronze at the 1998 Olympics — the first with NHL players. No nation has won as many medals since the sport's best players joined hockey at the Olympics.

Teemu Selanne, the 43-year-old Finnish Flash, wants to add to his collection.

"A bronze medal would be an unbelievable thing," Selanne said after losing to the Swedes. "So, that is our goal now even though it is very disappointing."

The U.S. had to settle for silver in 2010 and 2002, losing to Canada each time, and seemed set up to earn its first Olympic gold medal in hockey since the "Miracle on Ice," 34 years ago.

After dominating Slovakia, Russia, Slovenia and Czech Republic by a combined score of 20-6, the Americans were not as fast, as strong or as good as Canada in a game that wasn't as close as the score indi-



Canada forward Jamie Benn, right, shoots and scores against USA goaltender Jonathan Quick during the second period of a men's semifinal ice hockey game at the 2014 Winter Olympics, Friday, Feb. 21, 2014, in Sochi, Russia.

Associated Press

cated. "There's huge disappointment in not being able to

come up with the victory in this game," U.S. coach Dan Bylsma said. "But that's got

to be put behind us real quick. We still have much to play for." □

## Good News

Continued from page 18

There were no celebrations for the U.S. hockey team, with Canada winning 1-0 and dashing the American hopes for men's gold for the third time since 2002. And it happened just one night after the Canadian women had ousted their American counterparts for the third straight Olympics. Canada and Sweden will play for the men's gold on Sunday. The Swedes beat Finland 2-1.

The first doping cases also hit the Winter Games on Friday. Italian bobsledder William Frullani and German biathlete Evi Sachenbacher-Stehle were kicked out of the games after positive doping tests. Frullani was in the four-man bobsled race, which begins Saturday.

Sachenbacher-Stehle, a five-time Olympic medalist, participated in five events in Sochi but did not win any medals.

On Day 15 of the Sochi Olympics, 18-year-old American skier Mikaela

Shiffrin became the youngest ever gold medal winner in the women's slalom; Marielle Thompson of Canada edged teammate Kelsey Serwa for the gold in women's skicross; Canada routed Britain 9-3 to win its third straight gold medal in men's curling; and short track speedskating gold medals went to Viktor Ahn of Russia in the men's 500, to Park Seung-hi of South Korea in the women's 1,000, and to Russia in the men's 5,000-meter relay.

**BIATHLON:** Ukraine's team of twins Vita and Valj Semerenko, Juliya Dzhyma, and Olena Pidhrushna missed five targets but avoided penalty loops to finish in 1 hour, 10 minutes, 2.5 seconds. Russia was 26.4 seconds behind to take silver, and Norway trailed by 37.6 to win bronze.

**ICE HOCKEY:** Jamie Benn scored the only goal Canada needed in its 1-0 win over the U.S. Finland went up early in the second period when Olli Jokinen scored, but Sweden's Loui



Ukraine's Olena Pidhrushna, bottom left, catches her breath as her teammates celebrate winning gold during the women's biathlon 4x6k relay, at the 2014 Winter Olympics, Friday, Feb. 21, 2014, in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

Associated Press

Eriksson tied it up and Erik Karlsson made it 2-1 with a slap shot from the middle of the ice.

**ALPINE SKIING:** Shiffrin became the youngest Olympic slalom champion, male or female, with her win. That mark was previously

held by Paoletta Magoni of Italy, who won gold at the 1984 Sarajevo Games when she was 19. Austrian teammates Marlies Schild and Kathrin Zettel took silver and bronze.

**FREESTYLE SKIING:** Thompson and Serwa gave Can-

ada its third 1-2 finish in freestyle skiing events in Sochi. The others came in men's and women's moguls. Canada also won gold and bronze in women's slopestyle skiing, and picked up a silver in the men's halfpipe, for a total of nine freestyle medals. In the skicross final, Ophelie David of France wiped out about two-thirds down the course, giving the bronze to Sweden's Anna Holmlund.

**CURLING:** Canada's championship gave the country a sweep of the curling titles in Sochi. The Canadian women won their first-ever curling title on Thursday. Sweden won the bronze in men's curling, taking an extra end to defeat China 6-4.

**SPEEDSKATING:** Ahn, who was born in South Korea and became a Russian citizen in 2011, now has a career record eight short track medals. In addition to winning the 500, he anchored the Russian 5,000 relay team. □



# Hamlin, Kenseth win qualifying races for Daytona 500

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

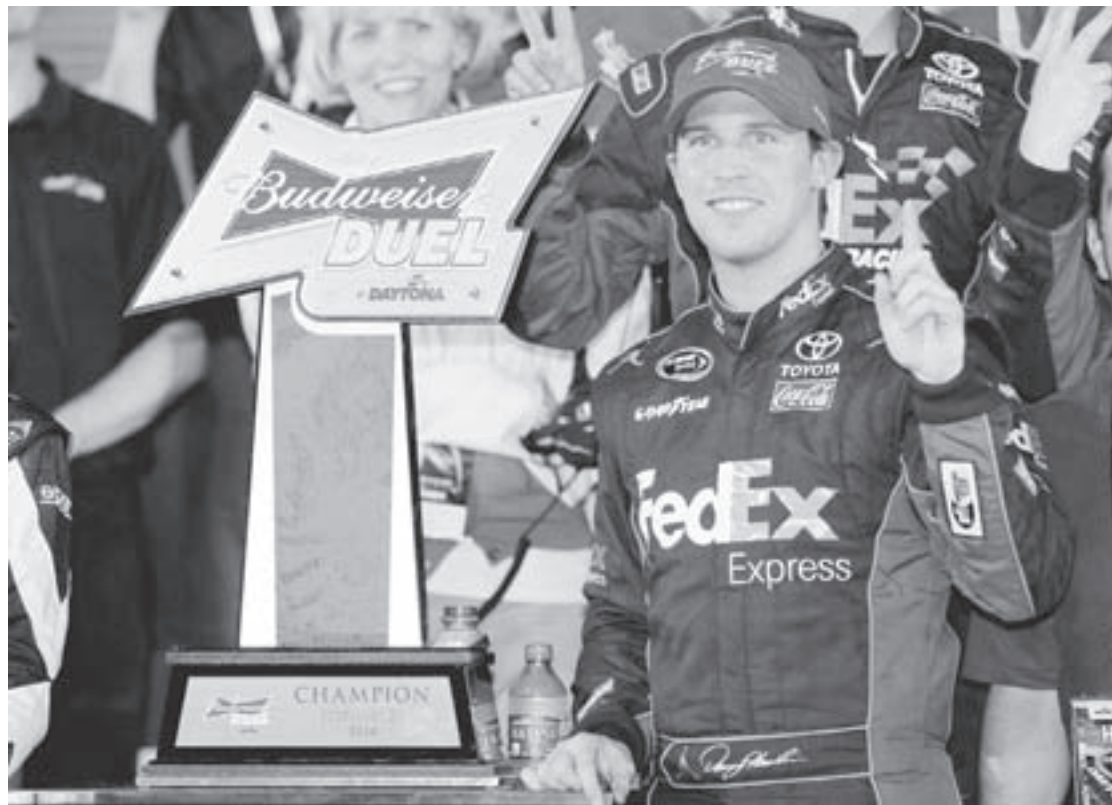
"We've come with great cars over the years. It shows you what a tough race this is, the 500," he said. "This race is extremely, extremely hard to win. That probably says it the best. That says it the best, over 21 years, that's a bunch."

JGR had strong cars last season and seemed to be the team to beat during the race, but came up empty when Kenseth's engine failed while leading. Minutes later, teammate Kyle Busch's engine also failed. Toyota is still looking for its first win in the "Great American Race."

"The last Daytona was so far away, we've moved well beyond that," said Toyota Racing Development President David Wilson. "We're certainly not sweating the issues we had last year."

The qualifying races make for an emotional day as drivers race their way into the Daytona 500, while others are sent home from the biggest event of the NASCAR season.

Those left broken-hearted this year were Michael McDowell, Joe Nemechek, Ryan Truex, Eric McClure and Morgan Shepherd,



Denny Hamlin celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the second of two NASCAR Sprint Cup series qualifying auto races at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla., Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014.

Associated Press

who at 72 was trying to become the oldest driver in the field. Dave Blaney withdrew from the qualifying race after wrecking his only car in Wednesday's practice.

But it was euphoria for the small teams of Swan Racing, which got both Cole Whitt and Parker Kligerman in the race a day after both drivers wrecked in practice,

and Hillman Racing, which will be in the Daytona 500 with Landon Cassill, who was hit by a car Saturday while riding his bike in Daytona.

"I've been stressed out about this since July," Cassill said. "I think I've played this race over in my head, what I think it could do, for months now. For a small team, this race kind of

makes our whole season, just the prize money alone to start on Sunday gets us through the next six or seven weeks. It's just huge for us."

For Swan Racing, getting rookies Whitt and Kligerman into the field erased the nightmare of Wednesday.

Whitt wrecked moments into practice, and the team

was forced to rebuild his car after Kligerman's was totaled when he went airborne. It was the first time Kligerman was ever upside down. Because Swan has only one backup, Kligerman got it, and the team went to work rebuilding Whitt's car.

Whitt raced his way in, but Kligerman faded in the first race and had to nervously watch the second race unfold to see if he earned a spot in the Daytona 500.

"I feel like in a lot of ways, you have the weight of an organization on your shoulders to get these two cars in the race," Kligerman said. "It's a growing organization, an organization that wants to be around for a long time to come."

But the second race ended in chaos, making everyone unsure of anything as defending Daytona 500 winner Jimmie Johnson ran out of gas on the final lap to trigger a crash that caused Clint Bowyer's car to flip. "I knew he was saving gas coming to the green. It's too bad to tear cars up like that," Bowyer said. "That was one of the wildest flips I've ever had. I think we would have been just fine if I hadn't hit the grass right here."

Johnson was apologetic.

"I feel terrible. To tear up that many race cars ... to see (Bowyer) flip ... certainly want to apologize to everyone," he said. "I tried to get up out of the way. So much energy in the pack that I knew I was going to get run over if I ran out because guys warned me about it - and it did."

The first race was uneventful as Kenseth led two times for 31 of the 60 laps. Harvick pulled out on the final lap to make his bid for the victory. Then Kasey Kahne pulled out of line to make it three-wide.

After the race, Harvick was informed while sitting in the Fox Sports 1 studio as an analyst for the second race that his Chevrolet, sponsored by Budweiser, had failed post-race inspection for the first Budweiser Duel. "Yeah, well, well, that's no good," Harvick said. □

## Another stunning escape for McDowell at Match Play

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

**MARANA, Arizona (AP)** — Not even Graeme McDowell can believe he's still alive in the Match Play Championship.

For the third straight round, McDowell pulled off another improbable escape to advance to the quarterfinals Friday at Dove Mountain. This time, all he had to do was win the last two holes against Hunter Mahan to force overtime and make a 20-foot par putt to stay in the match on the 20th hole.

He won with a birdie on the 21st hole.

In three matches, McDowell has played 58 holes and has never had the lead until he won.

Jordan Spieth beat Matt Kuchar. Ernie Els ousted Jason Dufner, Victor Dubuisson beat Bubba Watson, and Rickie Fowler won on the last hole against Sergio Garcia. The other winners were Louis Oosthuizen and Jason Day. □



Graeme McDowell, of Northern Ireland, reacts to a putt on the first hole in his match against Hunter Mahan during the third round of the Match Play Championship golf tournament on Friday, Feb. 21, 2014, in Marana, Ariz.

Associated Press.



# WhatsApp deal highlights suite of similar apps

YOUKYUNG LEE

AP Technology Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— Facebook's announcement it is paying \$19 billion in cash and stock to acquire WhatsApp is a milestone in the short history of mobile messaging apps. Hundreds of millions of people have downloaded such apps to their smartphones and tablets to chat and share photos and videos for free, making them potent rivals to Facebook. WhatsApp alone has 450 million active monthly users.

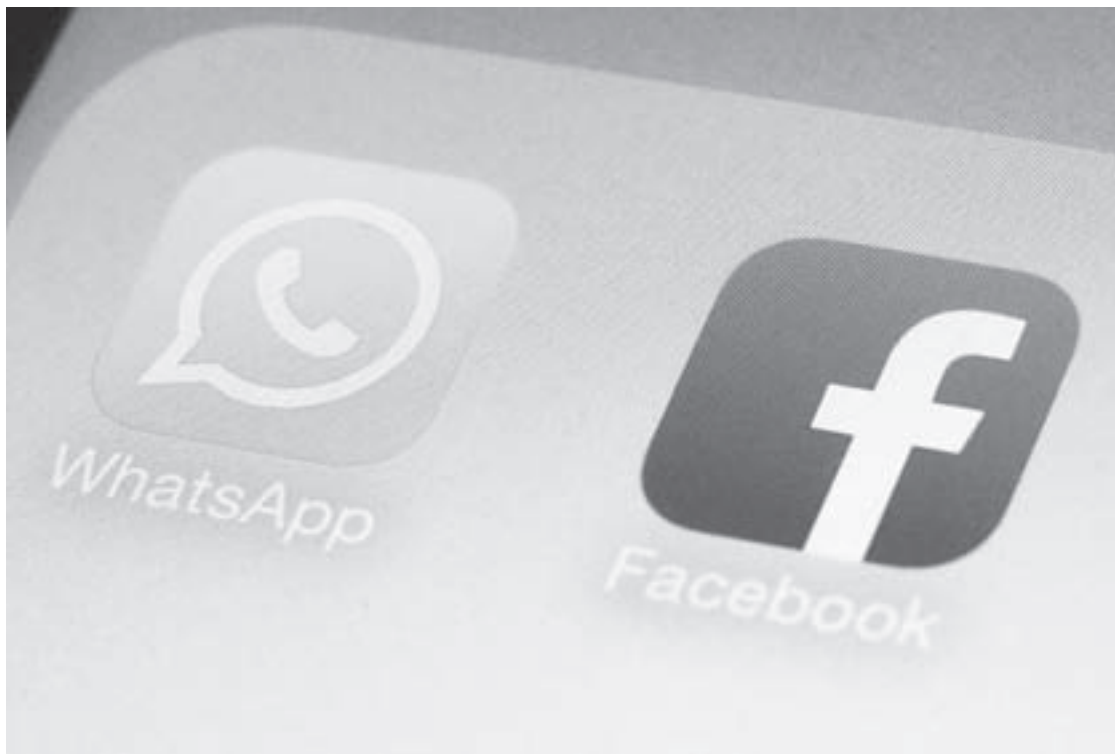
The stunning price tag for a company that employs just 55 people is likely to boost valuations of other messaging applications and also stoke worries about a new tech bubble. Many of the apps are still figuring out how to make money from big pools of users.

Their main features are free messaging and voice calls between two individuals or in groups. Some have been adding gift buying and mobile games. They are already undercutting the mainstay businesses of mobile phone network companies: text messages and voice calls.

Some of the most popular messaging apps were developed in Asia, where a slew of competitors are vying for dominance.

—LINE

Developed by Naver Corp. in 2011, LINE is a free messaging app that has be-



This Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014 photo shows the WhatsApp and Facebook app icons on an iPhone in New York. Associated Press

come hugely successful in Japan and Southeast Asian countries such as Thailand. It built its popularity around cute "stickers" of animal or comic characters that users can share in chat rooms. As of November, 300 million people were using LINE around the world. In less than three years, LINE has become a cash cow for Naver, which operates South Korea's most visited web portal but is little known outside of East Asia. Its money making prowess makes it a rarity among messaging apps. Most of the app's revenue comes from mobile games. Some also comes from sticker sales which cost about \$1 for a dozen. LINE raked

in revenue of 454.2 billion won (\$423 million) in 2013.

—Viber

Created by Cyprus-based Viber Media, Viber offers its core Internet phone call function for free to its 280 million global users. Japan's top online retailer Rakuten Inc. said last week it will buy Viber for \$900 million as the retail giant is eager to expand outside Japan. Rakuten founder Hiroshi Mikitani sees Viber as a potential platform for games and other content. Viber users can make video calls and exchange photos and messages between mobile devices and desktop computers. Access from a desktop computer is a feature that more mobile mes-

senger apps are offering as they want users to stick with their service as they shift between devices.

—WeChat

China's dominant mobile messaging app is WeChat, launched in 2011 by Tencent Holdings Ltd., one of China's leading Internet companies. Tencent, which makes most of its revenue from games, said WeChat had 272 million active users last year, with more than 100 million of them abroad. Other Chinese Internet companies including Alibaba and Baidu and phone carrier China Mobile Ltd. also offer instant messaging apps but have far fewer users. WeChat has added fea-

tures including short voice messages and video calls over WiFi, which saves users money on phone calls. WeChat has added a payment feature for use in e-commerce. Alibaba, which dominates e-commerce in China, sees that as a threat to its own online payment service and is scrambling to shore up its dominance.

—Kakao Talk

Created in 2010 by Kakao, a South Korea startup, Kakao Talk spread quickly in South Korea along with rapid adoption of smartphones. It has become the go-to free messaging service enjoyed by nearly all Korean smartphone users, giving birth to new idioms such as "Let's do Ka Talk."

Some government officials and business people hold online meetings in Kakao Talk's group chat rooms. Abroad, it has lagged behind LINE and others in popularity. As of last month, Kakao Talk had 130 million users exchanging 5.5 billion messages a day and spending 213 minutes on the app every week. Kakao Talk is looking for ways to extend beyond messaging and mobile games to become a portal for navigating the mobile Internet and an e-commerce platform. Mobile games helped the app become profitable in 2012 and Kakao plans an IPO for 2015. Tencent became Kakao's second-biggest shareholder in 2012. □

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# Early gain fades for stocks; S&P 500 declines



Trader Gregory Rowe, center, works at the post of specialist Joseph Mastrolia, left, on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Friday, Feb. 21, 2014. Stocks slipped on Friday, pushing the market to a weekly loss, as investors assessed the latest round of company earnings.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

**STEVE ROTHWELL**  
**AP Markets Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Stocks slipped on Friday, pushing the market to a weekly loss, as investors assessed the latest round of company earnings.

Express Scripts, the largest U.S. pharmacy benefits manager, fell after its fourth-quarter earnings slipped, hurt by the loss of UnitedHealth, a large customer. Groupon plunged after the online deals company said it expects to post a loss this quarter and issued a weak outlook for

the year.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose in early trading Friday and had almost wiped out its loss for the year by late morning, climbing to within two points of its record close. By late afternoon the index started to turn lower.

The stock market has gained this month after getting a boost from decent corporate earnings for the fourth quarter and optimism that the economy will start to pull out of its winter slump as the weather improves.

While investors have been willing to overlook much of the weak economic data this month, they appear reluctant to push the stock market back above its recent highs before they see firmer evidence that the economy is sustaining its recovery.

Investors are "giving the economic data points a bit of a free pass, but at the same time they're not fully convinced either," said Robert Pavlik, chief market strategist at Banyan Partners, a wealth management firm.

The S&P 500 index fell 3.53 points, or 0.2 percent, to 1,836.25. The index lost 2.38 points for the week and is now 12 points below its record close of 1,848.38, set Jan. 15. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 29.93 points, or 0.2 percent, to 16,103.30. The Nasdaq composite dropped 4.13 points, or 0.1 percent, to 4,263.41. Among individual stocks, Express Scripts fell \$3.11, or 4 percent, to \$74.01 after it reported its results. Groupon plunged \$2.25, or 21.9 percent, to \$8.03 after the online deals company said it was ramping up its marketing campaign and forecast 2014 pre-tax earnings to be only slightly higher than last year. Stock investors have had a bumpy ride so far this year. The S&P 500 was down almost 6 percent for the year at the start of February amid concerns about slowing growth in China and other emerging markets, as well as worries about the state of the U.S. economy. Since then stocks have rebounded, but some investors aren't convinced the recovery will last. "I've felt all along that this is going to be a very volatile year," said Uri Landesman, president of Platinum Partners, an investment management company. □

## War of words signals a change at BlackBerry

**IAN AUSTEN**  
© 2014 New York Times News Service

**OTTAWA, Ontario** - In one of the more public illustrations of how things have changed at BlackBerry, John S. Chen, the company's relatively new chief executive and executive chairman, engaged in some exceptional online sniping this week with his counterpart at T-Mobile US. Because decisions made by wireless carriers can be so critical to the success of handsets - essentially helping pick winners and losers - BlackBerry, like most phone makers, has long been careful to maintain and cultivate its relations with carriers.

Chen, who is best known for turning around database and mobile software maker Sybase, has a new approach, at least when it comes to T-Mobile. And given BlackBerry's dimly low market share in the United States, he also has less to lose than his predecessors.

After T-Mobile began contacting its customers who use BlackBerrys with promotions for Apple's iPhone, Chen attacked the move very publicly. In a blog post published Tuesday on BlackBerry's website, Chen praised BlackBerry users who complained through social media and publicly about T-Mobile's attempt to get them to change teams.

"Your partnership with our brand is appreciated by all of us at BlackBerry, and draws a sharp contrast with the behavior of our longtime business partner," Chen wrote, referring to T-Mobile. "What puzzles me more is that T-Mobile did not speak with us before or after they launched this clearly inappropriate and ill-conceived marketing promotion."

Before getting in one further dig at the carrier, Chen promised that a deal for BlackBerry users with T-Mobile would be announced shortly.

"Finally, to T-Mobile. □

## Fannie earns \$6.5B in 4Q; repaying US bailout

**MARCY GORDON**  
**AP Business Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Fannie Mae posted net income of \$6.5 billion from October through December, its eighth straight profitable quarter. Fannie will have repaid its full U.S. government bailout after paying its fourth-quarter dividend. Fannie said Friday that its full-year profit of \$84 billion for 2013 was boosted by rising home prices and an accounting move capitalizing on tax benefits it had accumulated from losses on mortgages during the financial crisis.

The fourth-quarter profit slipped from earnings of \$7.6 billion in the same period of 2012.

Washington-based Fannie will pay a dividend of \$7.2 billion to the U.S. Treasury next month. With its previous payments totaling about \$114 billion, it will have more than fully repaid the \$116 billion it received from taxpayers.

The government rescued Fannie and smaller sibling Freddie Mac at the height of the financial crisis in September 2008 when both veered toward collapse under the weight of losses on risky mortgages. Together the companies received taxpayer aid totaling \$187 billion. Freddie also has repaid its bailout.

The gradual recovery of the housing market has made Fannie and Freddie

profitable again. Their repayments of the government loans helped make last year's federal budget deficit the smallest in five years.

Fannie's \$84 billion net income for 2013 compared with earnings of \$17.2 billion in 2012. Fannie affirmed Friday that it expects to be profitable "for the foreseeable future." However, the company said it doesn't expect to repeat its 2013 results, since they were bolstered by the tax accounting move and a significant increase in home prices during the year. Fannie also gained billions of dollars last year from a number of settlements it reached with major banks over soured

mortgage securities it purchased from them before the financial crisis.

Fannie said its 2013 earnings also were bolstered by a decline in mortgage delinquency rates.

Fannie and Freddie, which is based in McLean, Va., own or guarantee about half of all U.S. mortgages, worth about \$5 trillion. Along with other federal agencies, they back roughly 90 percent of new mortgages. The two companies don't directly make loans to borrowers. They buy mortgages from lenders, package them as bonds, guarantee them against default and sell them to investors. That helps make loans available. □



# Facebook looks to become big fish in another big pond

MARK SCOTT

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**LONDON** - Facebook is already the world's biggest social network. Now it wants to be the biggest player in a new global field by buying WhatsApp, the global leader in mobile messaging. "WhatsApp is the biggest guy in town," said Bertrand

China. About 45 percent of mobile Internet messaging users rely on WhatsApp, according to the research firm Analysys Mason. The acquisition, the largest ever by Facebook, is part of its effort to create a series of applications on a user's mobile device instead of relying on its core social network alone. It also

Facebook an opportunity to reach people in different ways, it could also lead to increased competition and tension with some of the world's largest telecommunications operators, like AT&T and Deutsche Telekom of Germany. For years, the telecommunications companies have drawn the ire

in fear of angering their customers.

WhatsApp has been wildly popular with European customers. The company recently said that it had more than 30 million active users in Germany, and the app is now downloaded more often by European users than rivals like Skype and competing offerings from local telecom companies like Orange. And it has outpaced local rivals like Viber Media of Cyprus, which was acquired by the Japanese e-commerce company Rakuten for \$900 million last week.

But its popularity in Europe is eclipsed by larger growth in emerging markets like Brazil and India, analysts said. As a growing number of users in developing economies, including Indonesia, have upgraded to smartphones, these customers have turned to online applications like messaging services that were previously not available on low-cost handsets.

"Facebook and WhatsApp will work together to get into more emerging markets," said Pamela Clark-Dickson, senior messaging analyst at the research firm Informa Telecoms and Media. "It's an area where both companies want to focus on in the future."

Analysts say Asian tech companies have built entrenched operations that Facebook and WhatsApp will find difficult to dislodge. The competitors are now expanding across the region and farther afield, including in Europe and the United States, which could hurt Facebook's own future plans for WhatsApp.

The rival messaging companies have successfully developed mobile games and other services inside their messaging services that users are willing to

pay for. That contrasts with WhatsApp, where the co-founders have vehemently opposed adding advertising to generate much-needed revenue.

"In countries like China and Japan, Facebook Messenger is not a leader," said Siim Teller, a mobile analyst at the consultant firm On Device Research in London. "Facebook has a problem with innovating beyond its core social networking application." □



**Jean Lee, a product manager, runs tests on WhatsApp's functions on the Chinese translation version of the mobile texting app in Mountain View, Calif. By buying WhatsApp, the global leader in mobile messaging, Facebook has a chance to compete elsewhere against other messaging start-ups.** (Peter DaSilva/The New York Times)

Schmitt, chief executive of App Annie, an analytics company that monitors app rankings worldwide. "Facebook is buying into that. It's about global scale."

Facebook's \$16 billion deal to buy WhatsApp, announced Wednesday, extends a deep reach in countries like Mexico, Germany and India, where the inexpensive messaging application has a big share of the markets.

And it gives Facebook a chance to compete elsewhere against other messaging startups, like Line in Japan and WeChat in

aims to seize on the trend of more people using their mobile phones to communicate one-on-one or with very small groups, rather than sharing information more widely.

WhatsApp's growth has been explosive. The company, founded in 2009, says that about a fifth of its users, or 100 million of its 450 million subscribers, have joined in the last four months. More than 55 percent of its users are from Western Europe, Mexico, India, Brazil and the United States, according to App Annie.

But while the deal gives

of consumers who were charged high fees to send text messages. But apps like WhatsApp offer consumers a cheap or free way to send messages. WhatsApp, for example, charges \$1 a year, and the first year is free.

Analysts say Facebook remains in a strong position when competing with these cellphone operators. Even though it has approximately 1.2 billion global users, Facebook is still one of the most downloaded applications for smartphones worldwide. And few carriers would be willing to block Facebook's services

## US home sales plunged 5.1% in January

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Sales of existing U.S. homes plummeted in January to the worst pace in 18 months. Cold weather, limited supplies of homes on the mar-

ket and higher buying costs held back purchases.

The National Association of Realtors says sales fell to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.62 million units last month. That was down 5.1 percent from the Decem-

ber pace. The sales rate declined 5.1 percent over the previous 12 months. Higher mortgage rates and higher prices have contributed to a slowdown in home buying in five of the past six months. The median home

price has risen 10.7 percent to \$188,900 since January 2013. The flagging sales suggest a deceleration from the momentum for much of 2013, when 5.09 million homes were sold, the most in seven years. □



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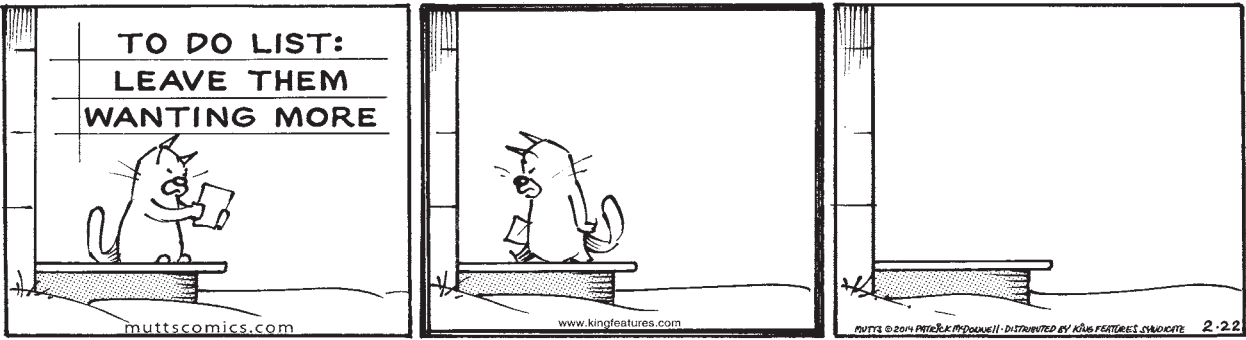
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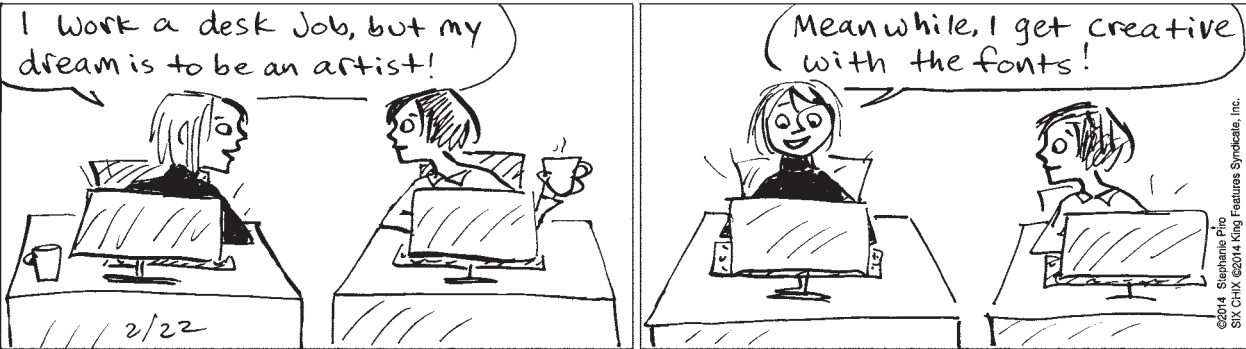
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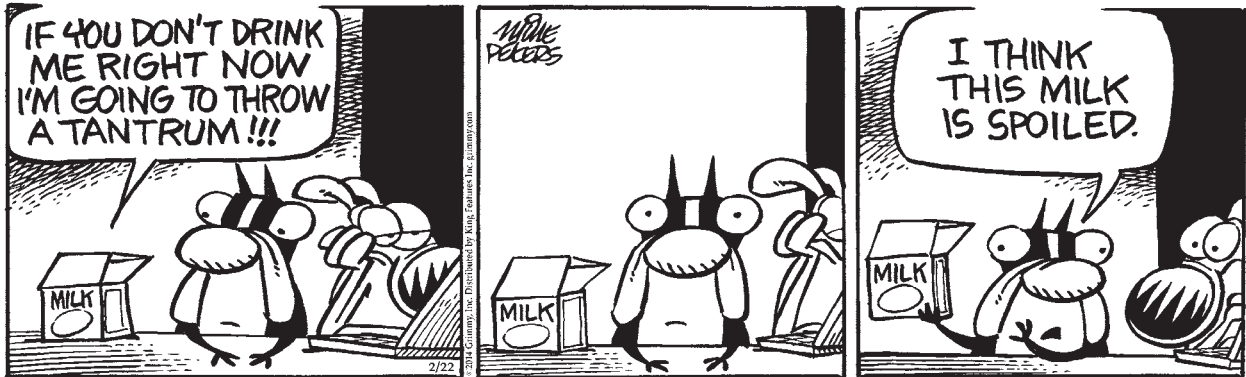
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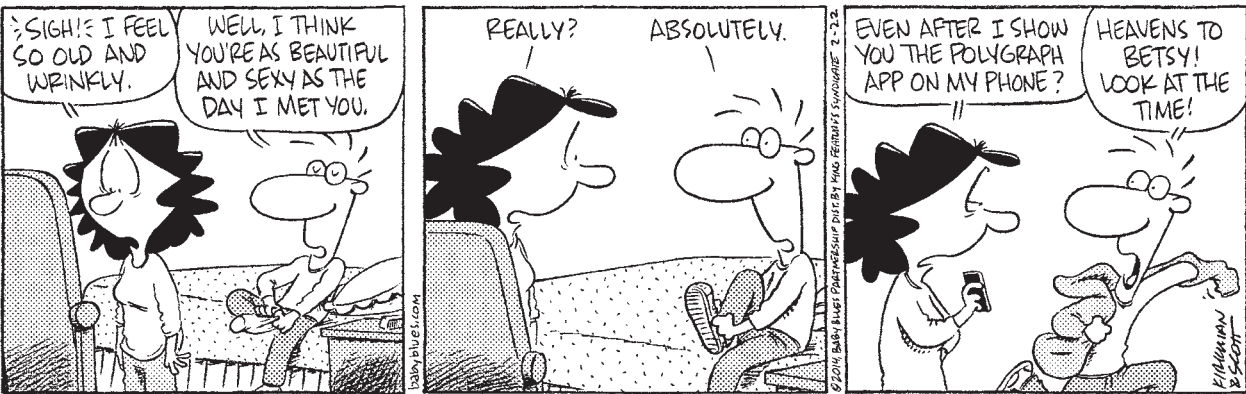
## Blondie



## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

		7	5	6				1
		9		2				
6	3							
8					6			
5	2			7			1	8
			3					2
							8	5
				9		6		
1				5	8	7		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

2/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

8	4	6	5	1	2	7	3	9
5	9	7	4	3	8	6	2	1
1	3	2	9	6	7	4	5	8
6	2	9	1	5	4	3	8	7
4	7	5	6	8	3	1	9	2
3	1	8	7	2	9	5	4	6
2	8	1	3	7	5	9	6	4
9	6	3	2	4	1	8	7	5
7	5	4	8	9	6	2	1	3

## ACROSS

- Skillet
- Pierces
- Newsman
- Severeid
- Had debts
- Forbidden thing
- Space flight agcy.
- Ricky Ricardo's portrayer
- board; nail file
- Lean; slant
- Headlong animal rushes
- Singles
- Openings
- Author Milne's monogram
- Accumulate, as bank interest
- Complained
- Sandbar
- Actor Spencer
- Historical period
- Thailand, once
- Tranquility
- Is unable to
- Koch & Asner
- Clear the slate
- Magic folklore spirit in a bottle
- Homesteaders
- Ready to take action
- Letters before an alias
- Ring out
- Cafe's list
- Singer Aguilera
- Take; assume control
- Old; place one frequented
- off; falls asleep
- Lima's nation
- Chosen few
- Stare
- Finishes
- Mexican mister
- Chicken's mom

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/22/14

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13			14	15				16			
17				18				19			
	20			21				22			
			23				24	25			
26	27	28				29	30		31	32	33
34				35					36		
37				38					39		
40				41				42			
43			44				45				
			46				47				
48	49	50		51	52	53			54	55	
56				57					58		59
60				61					62		
63				64					65		

## Friday's Puzzle Solved

3	Home of twigs	REDD	CHINA	STOP
4	Plain of Asia or Europe	OVER	ROBES	PUMA
5	Makes gentle	LILY	ARITHMETIC	
6	In the sack	ELI	ANNS	ACUTE
7	Dull long-winded speaker		BACKS	WOK
8	Teriyaki marinade	PLENTY	CARSON	
9	Bury	LORDS	KHAKI	VET
10	Picnic spoiler	AWAY	BEIGE	HERE
11	of Capri	YET	GEESE	LARVA
12	Tabbies and tigers	RECALL	MARTYR	
14	Explanatory chart		ALL	MIRTH
21	Injure through rough handling	INANE	KINK	ROB
25	Pres. Carter's daughter	MARASCHINO	TOGA	
26	Donkeys	PIER	OUTER	AWRY
27	Scold	SLAY	PEERS	USES
28	Seashore			
29	Lawn			
30	Marathon			
31	Depends; relies			
32	Golfer Els			
33	Obsolete			
35	Drop of sorrow			

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2/22/14

## DOWN

- Pea casing
- Astounds

- Brood; pout
- Level; smooth
- Bookish fellow
- Vigorous
- Destroy
- Ark builder
- Shaping tool
- Title for Rubio or Reid; abbr.





Television news cameramen point their cameras to the West Wing entrance of the White House in Washington, Friday, Feb. 21, 2014, hoping to catch Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama arriving for a closed press meeting with President Barack Obama.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

## Obama meets with Dalai Lama; visit rankles China

**JOSH LEDERMAN**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Barack Obama met with the Dalai Lama at the White House Friday over the stern objection of China, which warned the meeting would “inflict grave damages” on the U.S. relationship with the Asian nation.

Obama greeted the Dalai Lama while the Tibetan spiritual leader and fellow Nobel laureate was in the U.S. on a speaking tour. The meeting was closed to photographers, and, unlike during some previous visits, the Dalai Lama departed the White House without speaking to reporters.

In a statement after the meeting, the White House said Obama offered his “strong support for the

preservation of Tibet’s unique religious, cultural, and linguistic traditions” and for human rights protections for Tibetans in China. The Dalai Lama told Obama he’s not seeking Tibetan independence, and both leaders said they hoped talks would resume between Beijing and the Dalai Lama’s representatives. When the White House announced the meeting late Thursday, China responded almost immediately, urging Obama to cancel it in what has become something of a diplomatic ritual whenever the president meets with the exiled Buddhist monk. In a biting statement, China’s government accused Obama of letting the Dalai Lama use the White House to promote anti-Chinese activities. □

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# Indonesia hopes to cash in on manta ray tourism

**MARGIE MASON**  
**Associated Press**

**JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)**

— Indonesia is now the world's largest sanctuary for manta rays, after officials were persuaded by evidence that the gentle giants known for delighting tourists are worth more alive than dead.

The government on Friday announced that manta rays within the archipelago's 5.8 million square kilometers (2.2 million square miles) of ocean will be protected from fishing and export. It will take time and cooperation at multiple levels to enforce the ban on poaching in the biggest global shark and ray fishery.

Conservationists point to simple economics as an incentive. According to a study published last year in the online journal PLoS One, a manta ray is worth up to \$1 million over the course of its long lifetime, thanks to tourists willing to pay generously for a chance to swim with the curious creatures that glide gracefully through the water by flapping their wide wings, almost as if flying. They are worth only \$40 to \$500 dead.

Government officials were "so surprised that the tourism value is very high. That's a very powerful argument," said Tien Gunawan, marine program director at Conservation International Indonesia. "Indonesia is such a big, big, big country. When looking at the size of the water, it's huge. And I think we should start small and make some kind of pilot for this enforcement."

The regulation was passed Jan. 27. Conservation groups are working to teach fishermen about the



In this Oct. 18, 2011 photo, manta ray swims in the water, off Raja Ampat islands, Indonesia.

**Associated Press**

value of keeping the mantas alive, while business people, the military, water police and local officials are being engaged to assist.

"There are more than 200 special policemen who have been prepared to guard conservation areas and to enforce the law on protection of this species," Sudirman Saad, director general for marine, coastal and small islands, said at a news conference announcing the protections Friday. He said the government will encourage fishermen affected by the ban to take advantage of manta ray tourism.

In some areas, including a well-known spot near the resort island of Bali, locals are already seeing profits from taking snorkelers out on their fishing boats, or working at larger dive resorts where mantas are a top attraction.

In Indonesia alone, manta tourism brings in an estimated \$15 million each year, according to the PLoS One report.

"Indonesia now has the second-largest manta ray tourism industry in the world," Agus Dermawan, director of the country's Marine Conservation Directorate, said in a statement. "Given the huge area of reefs and islands in our country, if managed properly, Indonesia could become the top manta tourism destination on the planet."

Two types of rays exist in Indonesia, the manta and

the mobula. Both are killed for their plankton-filtering gills, which are used for medicinal concoctions, mainly in China. Mantas are also frequently caught accidentally by fishermen, but they are not part of a major targeted industry in Indonesia as in other countries, such as Sri Lanka, Gunawan said.

Increased demand has led to a sharp drop in manta numbers in recent years, raising international con-

cern. Multibillionaire Virgin Group boss Richard Branson has sounded alarms though the "Manta Ray of Hope" conservation project. And last year the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora imposed new trade regulations for the species. "Enforcement and community education are always necessary in order for this or any law to have a real impact, but passage of the law is a critical step," Mary O'Malley, lead author of the study from the San Francisco-based non-profit WildAid, said in an email.

She said her organization also plans to launch a campaign in China to address demand there.

Mantas are among the world's largest fish and can reach up to 8 meters (26 feet) from wingtip to wingtip. Found in the tropics, they can live up to 50 years, but do not mature until age 8 to 10 and typically give birth to a single pup only every two to five years. This slow reproduction rate means fishing cannot be sustained over the long haul. □

## SOCHI SCENE: Athletes vs. scientists

**SOCHI, Russia (AP)** — As the number of positive tests for doping at the Olympics has dwindled in recent years, the age-old debate has only increased.

Are drug enforcement officials winning? Or are the athletes and those around them just finding more advanced means to cheat and throw the dogs off the scent?

On a day when a German athlete became the first announced drug test failure of the Sochi Games, that conversation is being had once again. It should come as a surprise that Arne Ljungqvist, the chairman of the IOC's medical commission, sides with his guys. "Who knows who is the smartest, the athletes and their entourage or our scientists," Ljungqvist said earlier in the Sochi Games.



A man walks past a sign reading doping control, at the Laura biathlon and cross-country ski center, at the 2014 Winter Olympics, Friday, Feb. 21, 2014, in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

**Associated Press**

"I put my money on our scientists are probably smarter than those around the athletes."

A Russian biathlete, Irina Starykh, withdrew from the Sochi Olympics because she failed a doping test

before the games.

"Here people know that they will be tested," Ljungqvist said. "Those who are on drugs hopefully do not come here, or we will identify them if they take it." □

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## Re-release of 'Anchorman 2' features 763 new jokes



In this Dec. 15, 2013 file photo, Will Ferrell attends the "Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues" premiere in New York. Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — With nearly every joke substituted for a new one, "Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues" will return to movie theaters for one week. Paramount Pictures announced Friday that an R-rated version of "Anchorman 2" with 763 new jokes will play in the U.S. and Britain beginning Feb. 28. Director Adam McKay improvises heavily while mak-

ing a film, and found he could swap out practically every joke in the film for an alternative. In a statement, McKay recommended die-hard "Anchorman" fans see the new version, but "if you're not, stay very far away." Starring Will Ferrell as TV news anchor Ron Burgundy, "Anchorman 2" has made about \$170 million worldwide since opening in December. □



In this Jan. 26, 2014 file photo, Pink performs at the 56th annual Grammy Awards at Staples Center, in Los Angeles. Associated Press

## Pink joins lineup of pop artists on the Oscars

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Have the Oscars gone Grammys? Producers of the 86th Academy Awards announced Friday that Pink will appear on the Oscar show. The Grammy-winning singer joins a lineup already set to include performances by U2, Pharrell Williams, Bette Midler, rocker Karen O and Broadway

star Idina Menzel. Producers Neil Meron and Craig Zadan didn't specify what Pink's performance will entail. They also haven't said what song Midler will sing. Williams, Menzel, Karen O and U2 are set to perform their nominated original songs on the March 2 show. □



In this Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014 photo, actor Patrick Duffy, center rehearses a scene with Brenda Strong, right, and film crew during production for the television series Dallas at Southfork Ranch in Parker, Texas. Associated Press

## JR still a presence as 3rd 'Dallas' season opens

**JAMIE STENGLE Associated Press PARKER, Texas (AP)** — J.R. Ewing is gone, but his presence still looms large on "Dallas" — along with the influence of the actor who made the conniving oilman one of television's most beloved characters.

The third season of the reboot of the classic series, which premieres Monday on TNT, marks the first full season without Larry Hagman, who died of complications from cancer in November 2012 at age 81. But cast members say the memory and schemes of his character — who was shot to death in the second season to coincide with Hagman's death — live on. On the cast's call sheets, Hagman's name is even still listed first.

"His character was such a larger-than-life being that we still reference him on the show," said Patrick Duffy, who reprises his role as J.R.'s brother Bobby Ewing in the new series. "And a lot of the plot devices that we're dealing with, we attribute to the character of J.R.: 'Oh my God, if it hadn't have been for that, then this wouldn't have happened. Damn him.' But there he is. He's omnipresent and that's good." Duffy spoke during filming this month at the fic-

tional family's home base of Southfork Ranch, which is now a tourist attraction, just outside Dallas.

"Once we got the first couple of episodes after Larry's death, handling the demise of J.R., we knew we could do anything and it was a matter of would the audience stay with us. And they did through the end of the season," Duffy said. CBS aired the original "Dallas" from 1978 to 1991. As the Ewings schemed and the plot twisted season after season, the series contributed to some of TV's most memorable moments, including the 1980 cliffhanger that left the whole world asking "Who shot J.R.?" In addition to Hagman and Duffy, the new TNT series revival brought back Linda Gray to reprise her role of J.R.'s ex-wife, Sue Ellen, and Ken Kercheval as Cliff Barnes, the Ewings' archenemy. Adding to the family drama in the new series, filmed entirely in the Dallas area, are Josh Henderson as John Ross, J.R. and Sue Ellen's son, and Jesse Metcalfe as Christopher, Bobby's adopted son.

Just before the new series began filming in fall 2011, Hagman announced he had cancer. But J.R., with his signature cowboy hat and boots, emerged on

screen as wily as ever. When Hagman died as filming was underway on the second season, writers scrambled to rewrite scripts. "We'll never be used to shooting this show without Larry. He's always missed and he's always a part of the story line, especially through my character," Henderson said.

Henderson said that in season three, John Ross is "very much into the J.R. style of life," which besides being ruthless in business also means using his charms on women. Executive producer Cynthia Cidre said John Ross has wanted to fill his father's shoes since the pilot episode of the new series. This season, he struggles with whether he's exactly like his father or his own man.

She said John Ross' emotions run the gamut: "We see him be wicked. We see him cheat. We see him lie. We see him be unfaithful. We see him cry. We see him be crushed by things that he's done and feel guilty about them."

Meanwhile, Metcalfe said his character's focus on a new love interest, played by AnnaLynne McCord, will have him retreating for a bit from the continuous family turmoil. But Metcalfe doesn't expect the respite to last. □



# Making a difference with Seth Meyers

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) —

The difference between Jimmy Fallon and Seth Meyers in the days before their first talk shows began is evident in what they spent the most time on, said the man who guided both programs to birth. With Fallon, who took over "Late Night" in 2009, it was the performance. Meyers worries about the writing. Producer Mike Shoemaker's observation is worth remembering as NBC's new late-night lineup settles in. Fallon, the new "Tonight" host, and Meyers, who takes over in the 12:30 a.m. "Late Night" slot starting Monday, are known more for their similarities. Both are in Lorne Michaels' orbit, came to be known through "Saturday Night Live" and hosted that show's topical "Weekend Update" before moving to weeknights. They work in the same building. Their success moving forward will hinge on shaping their own personalities — and identities — for shows that NBC hopes will run back-to-back in late-night for years to come.



This Jan. 19, 2014 file photo shows Seth Meyers at the NBC/Universal Winter 2014 TCA in Pasadena, Calif. Meyers' new show, "Late Night with Seth Meyers," will premiere on Monday, Feb. 24.

Associated Press

"They're actually rather complementary of each other," said Paul Telegdy, NBC West Coast executive in charge of late-night. "People say, 'Aren't they two versions of the same thing?' They couldn't be more different."

Fallon's persona is energetic and goofy, with a gift for music and mimicry and an ability to guide celebrities into poking fun at

themselves. Meyers, 40, is more cerebral and topical, and he enjoys playing the straight man.

He knows his strengths. "I mean, I'd like to be up there with Bruce Springsteen," Meyers said of Fallon's occasional duet partner, "but no one else would enjoy it."

Like most comics of his generation, Meyers worships at the altar of David Letter-

man, but a more enduring influence is Conan O'Brien. O'Brien was a writer before going in front of the camera. Meyers attended Northwestern University and worked in improvisational theater in Chicago, but always saw himself creating jokes more than telling them. He joined "Saturday Night Live" as a performer in 2001 and took a unique career trajectory, becom-

ing the show's head writer in 2006.

"Seth is the most brilliant writer to come out of 'SNL' in my time," said Shoemaker, a trusted Michaels lieutenant.

An important step in Meyers' transition to a daily show was hiring "Weekend Update" writer Alex Baze as head writer for "Late Night." Meyers has been putting his writing staff through drills for weeks, preparing pitches as if the show were up and running. "It's not so much to have things to use, but for the writing staff to learn the things that I like or don't like," Meyers said. "The pitches have been an education in my taste."

Until it got to be too much, he enjoyed being able to continue on "Weekend Update" while prepping the new show.

There are only so many jokes you can write and toss aside — it keeps you sharper to have an on-the-air outlet.

In broad strokes, his show is taking shape. Former "SNL" colleague Fred Armisen will lead the band. Meyers will have no sidekick, but regular foils taken from the writing staff and New York's comedy community. Amy Poehler, Vice President Joe Biden, Kanye West and Lena Dunham are among his first week's guests.

Meyers can't decide whether the second show or second week will be the most fun, when the pressure of a premiere is off and the machinery is up and running. That's where an experienced hand like Shoemaker is important; to remind him of the fluid nature of these programs.

"All of the bits that became big on Jimmy, even right away, were not planned," Shoemaker said.

"They happen and you do more of them. Our show next year, and I'm not being coy, I can't even imagine how it is going to go. It will be fun getting there, but there is no way to guess."

Unlike those who moved on fairly quickly from the show, □

## Versatile TV newsman Garrick Utley dies at 74

FRAZIER MOORE,  
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Veteran TV journalist Garrick Utley, whose far-ranging career included anchoring duties as well as reporting from more than 70 countries, has died of cancer at 74, NBC said Friday.

Utley began at NBC News in 1963, and for three decades handled a wide variety of assignments. Early on, he reported from Vietnam on the escalating conflict. In later years, he moderated "Meet the Press."

In between, Utley anchored "Weekend Today" and the Sunday "Nightly News," as well as two dif-

ferent newsmagazines in two different decades with four different titles.

"I may have been the only person at NBC News who did every type of programming as host or anchor," he told The Associated Press in 1993, adding that his versatility may have led to the network taking him for granted.

"There's a risk in being the utility infielder."

That was shortly after he had left NBC to be the chief foreign correspondent for ABC News. He reported for CNN from 1997 to 2002.

In recent years, he was a senior fellow and professor of broadcasting and journalism at the State Univer-

sity of New York, Oswego.

In 2000, he published a memoir, "You Should Have Been Here Yesterday: A Life Story in Television News."

Standing a lanky 6-foot-6, Utley was known for his courtly and knowledgeable on-the-air manner. An opera buff, for a time he hosted PBS' "Live From the Met."

"Garrick was the first of our generation to crack the starting lineup of NBC News in the glory days of 'Huntley-Brinkley,'" said former "Nightly News" anchor Tom Brokaw, who called him a journalistic "man for all seasons" who was "always the complete gentleman."

Born in Chicago in 1939,



In a Thursday, March 29, 2012 file photo, Garrick Utley, a former TV journalist and currently president of the State University of New York Levin Institute, speaks at the Council on Foreign Relations, in New York. Associated Press

Utley was the son of Clifton and Frayn Utley, two pioneering journalists on local TV as well as other Chicago media outlets.

He is survived by his wife, Gertje, an art historian. □



## History: Get Me Rewrite!



**MAUREEN DOWD**  
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I found myself sitting on a bar stool last winter next to Robert Caro at an Irish wake in Times Square for my irreplaceable Times colleague Frank Prial.

I had an overpowering urge to grab Caro's arm and shake him. For the love of Pete, I wanted to yelp at the 78-year-old historian who has spent 38 years chronicling Lyndon Johnson in more than 3,388 pages, was he ever going to get to Vietnam? But the shy, bespectacled writer picking at his hors d'oeuvres did not look like the sort of man who could be rushed.

As Adam Nagourney wrote in The Times on Sunday, Luci Baines Johnson and other members of LBJ's shrinking circle are pushing to broaden the lens on the president's legacy so that it is not merely viewed "through the prism of a failed war."

They are using the 50th anniversary of Johnson's more impressive domestic policies - including the Civil Rights Act, the Clean Air Act and Medicare - to yank the focus away from "the agony of Vietnam" and "his cross," as his daughter calls it.

"Nobody wanted that war less than Lyndon Johnson," the 66-year-old Luci said, adding that he tried mightily to get out. Maybe ratcheting up the war with more than 500,000 troops and sending so many young Americans to their deaths halfway around the world based on chest-thumping advice and a naïve theory of democratic dominoes was a deterrent to getting out.

In the new Broadway play with Bryan Cranston as LBJ, "All The Way," by Robert Schenkkan, there's a scene where Robert McNamara pushes Johnson to order "retaliatory" airstrikes after the Potemkin Gulf of Tonkin. Hubert Humphrey tries to slow them down, noting that they should not strike back "for an attack which may or may not have happened," but Johnson, prodded by McNamara, frets about how Barry Goldwater would slam him if he went "soft on the military."

Johnson was determined not to be seen as weak, not to "cut and run" - the same phrase later used by W. about Iraq when he was determined not to be seen as a wimp and began sending so many young Americans to their deaths halfway around the world based on chest-thumping advice and a naïve theory of democratic dominoes.

Asked by a reporter about Iraq

recently, W.'s eyes flashed and he replied, "I am not happy."

He shouldn't be. Afghanistan, which he abandoned to pursue a phony "retaliatory" war in Iraq, is crumbling despite all the money, muscle and blood we have poured into it, with our runaway fruitcake puppet Hamid Karzai fiddling while the Taliban burns, vowing to run America out just as they did the Russians and waging vicious attacks on women.

In corrupt and violent Iraq, women are getting detained illegally and tortured. The country is awash in a blood-dimmed tide, with nearly 9,000 killed last year and almost 1,000 killed last month, as al-Qaida and another jihadist group fight for supremacy. In Fallujah, the city where nearly 100 U.S. soldiers died in the fiercest fighting of the war, the black insurgent flag now flies over buildings.

With the help of his own personal librarian, Laura, W. has been trying to reframe his legacy to take the focus off his botched wars, just like LBJ's family. His presidential library highlights his work on AIDS in Africa, belatedly tapering the roles of his sulfurous regents, Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld.

With Laura at his side, W. spent a long time chatting with reporters on the way to Nelson Mandela's funeral, putting his own spin on his presidency. The Texan who hated being "put on the couch," as he called it, said he had a strategy to see into Vladimir Putin's soul that entailed getting his attention by asking him, at their first meeting, about something he had read, that his mother had a cross that was blessed in Jerusalem. The Russian leader told him the breakup of the Soviet Union was the worst thing that had ever happened. Tell it to Ukraine, W. dryly noted. He also said of Putin: "You always have to watch out when someone steeples their fingers."

Just as LBJ observed that the two things that make politicians more stupid than anything else are sex and envy, W. said that he was not surprised by how Putin evolved because the three things that can change someone are "a love of power, wealth and sex."

He said that since his heart surgery, he was spending a lot of time painting skulls. Animal skulls, Laura quickly interjected.

He continued his campaign to downplay the influence of Cheney, stressing that he had "lots of advisers." Asked how much he sees Cheney, he said "never" and asserted that he had never been that close to his vice president and that the age difference precluded a friendship. So he let an acquaintance ruin his presidency?

But just as LBJ will always be yoked to Vietnam and McNamara, 43 will always be yoked to his careless misadventures in Iraq and Afghanistan and to Cheney. W. should know: Some landscapes cannot be painted over. □



## Breakfast Before the MOOC



**THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN**  
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Beginning March 2, Professor Hossam Haick will teach the first massive open online course, or MOOC, on nanotechnology in Arabic. What's more interesting, though, he explained to me the other day over breakfast is some of the curious email he's received from students registering for his MOOC from all over the Arab world. Their questions include: Are you a real person? Are you really an Arab, or are you an Israeli Jew speaking Arabic, pretending to be an Arab? That's because Haick is an Israeli Arab from Nazareth and will be teaching this course from his home university, the Technion, Israel's premier science and technology institute, and the place we were having breakfast was Tel Aviv.

His course is titled Nanotechnology and Nanosensors (<https://www.coursera.org/course/nanosar>) and is designed for anyone interested in learning about Haick's specialty: "novel sensing tools that make use of nanotechnology to screen, detect, and monitor various events in either our personal or professional life." The course includes 10 classes of three to four short lecture videos - in Arabic and English - and anyone with an Internet connection can tune in and participate for free in the weekly quizzes, forum activities and do a final project. If you had any doubts about the hunger for education in the Middle East today, Haick's MOOC will dispel them. So far, there are about 4,800 registrations for the Arabic version, including stu-

dents from Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Algeria, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, Yemen, the United Arab Emirates and the West Bank. Iranians are signing up for the English version. Because the registration is through the Coursera MOOC website, some registrants initially don't realize the course is being taught by an Israeli Arab scientist at the Technion, said Haick, and when they do, some professors and students "unregister." But most others are sticking with it. (MOOCs have just started to emerge in the Arab world via Coursera, edX, Edraak, Rwaq, SkillAcademy and MenaVerity - some with original content, much still translated.)

Asked why he thought the course was attracting so much interest in the neighborhood, Haick said: "Because nanotechnology and nanosensors are perceived as futuristic, and people are curious to understand what the future looks like." And because nanotechnology "is so cross- and multi-disciplinary. . . It offers a large diversity of research opportunities."

Haick, 38, whose Ph.D. is from the Technion, where his father also graduated, is a science prodigy. He and the Technion already have a startup together, developing what he calls "an electronic nose" - a sensory array that mimics the way a dog's nose works to detect what Haick and his team have proved to be unique markers in exhaled breath that reveal different cancers in the body. In between that and teaching chemical engineering, the Technion's president, Peretz Lavie, suggested that Haick lead the school into the land of MOOCs.

Lavie, Haick explained, "thinks there is a high need to bring science beyond the boundaries between countries. He told me there is something called a 'MOOC.' I did not know what is a MOOC. He said it is a course that can be given to thousands of people over the Web. And he

asked if I can give the first MOOC from the Technion - in Arabic."

The Technion is funding the project, which took nine months to prepare, and Haick is donating the lectures. Some 19 percent of the Technion's students today are Israeli Arabs, up from 9 percent 12 years ago. Haick says he always tells people, "If the Middle East was like the Technion, we would already have peace. In the pure academy, you feel totally equal with every person. And you are appreciated based on your excellence." He adds without meaning to boast, "I have young people who tell me from the Arab world: 'You have become our role model. Please let us know the ingredients of how we become like you.'"

I know what some readers are thinking: nice bit of Israeli propaganda, now could you please go back to writing about Israel's ugly West Bank occupation. No. This story is a useful reminder that Israel is a country, not just a conflict, and, as a country, it's still a work in progress. It has its lows, like the occupation and economic discrimination against Israeli Arabs, and its highs, like the collaboration between Haick and the Technion, which is providing one on-ramp for those in the Arabic-speaking world eager to grasp the new technologies reshaping the global economy. Those, like members of the BDS - boycott, divestiture, sanctions - movement who argue that Israel is only the sum of how it deals with the West Bank and therefore deserves to be delegitimized as a state, would do well to reflect on some of these complexities. For me, though, Haick's MOOC is also a reminder of what an utter waste of money and human talent has been the Arab-Israeli conflict. Look how eager all these young Arabs and Persians are for the tools and resources to realize their full potential, wherever they can find that learning. Arab dictators so underestimated their people for so long. That's what fueled the Arab awakening. □



# German Village Resists Plans to Strip It For Coal



The main road and a 14th century church in one of the remaining villages at risk in a region where about 25,000 people have already been uprooted by mines over the years, in Atterwasch, Germany. Germany's sudden hunger for coal is the dirty side of Chancellor Angela Merkel's ambitions to shut down the country's nuclear power plants by 2022 and eventually move Germans mostly to renewable energy. (Gordon Welters/The New York Times)

MELISSA EDDY

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**ATTERWASCH, Germany** -

A grove of apple saplings grows on the lee side of Ulrich Schulz's barn. He did not plant them for the fruit, he said, but as an act of rebellion against a nearby mining company that wants to raze his farm, which his family has owned since 1560, to get at the coal beneath his land.

"A nod to Martin Luther," said Schulz, 53, gesturing at the two rows of spindly trees. "He said that if he knew the world was coming to an end, he would

plant an apple tree."

It may not be the end of the world, but it could be the end of Atterwasch, population 241. While Chancellor Angela Merkel has promised her country a future virtually free of fossil fuels, it may seem strange that this village in eastern Germany, and two neighboring ones, are still fighting plans to wipe them, quite literally, off the map. But Germany's sudden hunger for coal has emerged as the dirty side of Merkel's ambitions to shut down the country's nuclear power plants by

2022 and eventually move Germans mostly to renewable energy. In fact, last year Germany burned more brown coal than at any time since its Communist-era factories began closing in 1990, according to AG Energiebilanzen, an association that tracks energy consumption.

The problem is that there are days when the wind does not blow and clouds fill the sky. With eight nuclear reactors shut since 2011 and the push for renewable energy still in its infancy, the country needs to bridge the power gaps.

That has only increased Germans' craving for coal, even though their energy diet is supposed to be shifting.

For Schulz and his neighbors, the battle to save Atterwasch is akin to not wanting to be the final casualty of a lost war, in a region where about 25,000 people have already been uprooted by mines over the years.

"Nobody wants to be the last one," Schulz said, contemplating the bright green of a young crop of rye on a balmy winter day. Eckhard Schulz, Ulrich's brother, said he was struck by that fact recently, while touring the nearby open-pit mine at Jänschwalde with his future son-in-law, a landscaper employed for reclamation projects by Vattenfall, the Swedish company that runs the mine.

They encountered a small sign on the spot where a church in the village of Horno had stood for centuries. Until 2003. That was when Horno became the most recent of 136 villages swallowed by open-pit mines in the region of Lusatia since 1924, according to the Archive of Lost Places, a local documentation center about the relocated villages.

"I stopped and I realized in the future, that could be our church," said Eckhard Schulz, who helps care for the three bells in the tower of Atterwasch's medieval church. The oldest bell, he notes, was cast in 1460, before Columbus reached America. "Suddenly, I wanted to turn back. I didn't want to see anything more."

For Vattenfall, Germany's shift to green energy has, paradoxically, been an unexpected boon.

"We have certainly felt the impact of the energy transformation in the last three years," said Thoralf Schirmer, a spokesman for Vattenfall, which owns five open-pit mines in eastern Germany that extract lignite, or brown coal. The company is petitioning the government to expand three of those mines.

"We have seen an increase of the demand for lignite since Germany decided to scale down its nuclear energy, because you need another source of energy to fill in this gap, and this source is lignite," Schirmer said. "It is cheap, abundant and easy to get at."

Easy enough, but not if the people of Atterwasch have a say. Vattenfall says it takes relocation very seriously and has sought to begin speaking with the residents about the process.

"A house for a house, a school for a school, a church for a church," Schirmer said. "Neighbors should be kept together; the structure of the new village should resemble the old."

But the villagers are not interested, said Christian Huschga, 43, a scriptwriter who moved to Atterwasch as a child and is now raising two sons here.

"We aren't interested in talking, because the minute we open the dialogue, it makes it look like we are interested in relocating, and we aren't."

"We want to stay here because we don't think that it will be necessary, that we will need to dig brown coal from the earth in 20 to 40 years, when we already want to have stopped using fossil fuels. We find that schizophrenic."

The prospect of relocating is an emotional one. A banner declaring "Atterwasch stays!" hangs over the firehouse, and a bright yellow "X," a local symbol of resistance, decorates the village church, a rallying point for candlelight vigils and marches.

For now, the survival of the village has become a question of endurance, of what will last longer, the determination of residents like the Schulzes to stay or Germans' appetite for coal.

Germany has poured billions into expanding green energy, and the government predicts that the transition could cost up to 550 billion euros (\$757 billion) before it is over. □



A giant excavating machine transfers material to a conveyor at an open pit lignite coal mine, which supplies a power plant in the same area, near Jaenschwalde, Germany. (Gordon Welters/The New York Times)